

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

# SOCCER

VOL. 20 No. 932 • TUESDAY 25 MAY 1999

• REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIAN POST • PUBLICATIONS No. N9Q5726

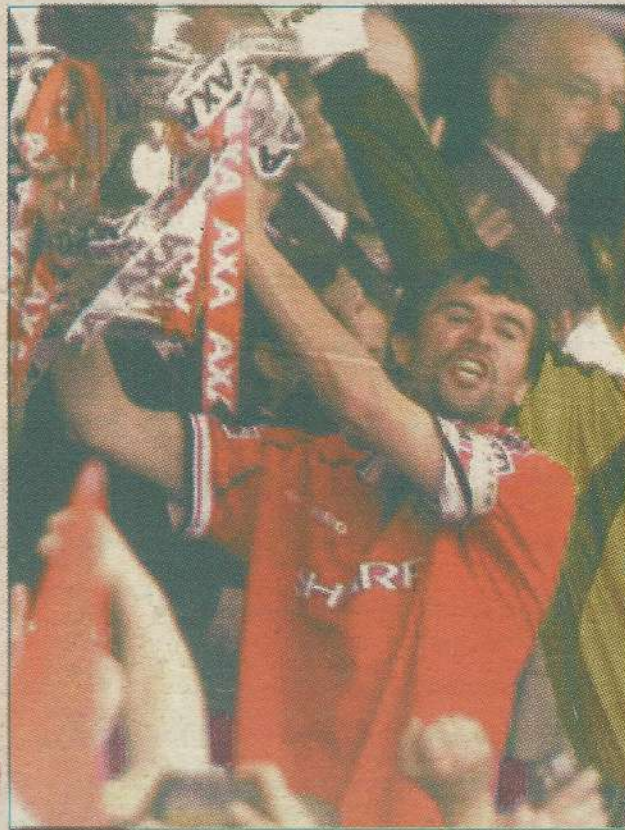
WEEKLY

\$3.00

**A TALE  
OF TWO  
TEAMS**

**SYDNEY  
UNITED**

**MAN.  
UNITED**



**UNITED  
WE  
STAND!**

SPECIAL EDITION



# SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSSIE & BRITISH **SOCCER WEEKLY**

5-13 Garners Ave., Marrickville NSW 2204.

Tel (02) 9562-0559 (Direct Line) Fax (02) 9550-9332

E-mail: soccerweekly@hotmail.com

Published every Tuesday by FLP Pty Ltd. 5-13 Garners Ave., Marrickville NSW 2204

## DISTRIBUTION

NSW/ACT: FLP Pty Ltd. 5-13 Garners Ave., Marrickville NSW 2204. Tel: (02) 9562-0500  
 VICTORIA: FLP Pty Ltd. 72-78 Gipps Street, Collingwood. 3066. Tel: (03) 9486-9522 Fax: (03) 9486-9656  
 QUEENSLAND: Queensland Newspaper Campbell St, Bowen Hills Qld. 4006 Tel: (07) 3252-6011  
 SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Advertiser Newspaper Ltd. Waymouth St, Adelaide SA 5000 Tel: (08) 8218-9329  
 WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Pan Hellenic Emporium, 67 James Street, Perth WA. 6000. Tel: (08) 9328-4779

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Recommended and maximum price: \$3.00  
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 ♦ Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to issue date.

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## REMINDER

HAVE YOU TOLD CHANNEL 7 THAT YOU WANT  
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\*Fax 02 98777888

\*Write to Bruce McAvaney at PO Box Epping, NSW 2121

Remember, Soccer won the survey for most popular football code in their recent Net site poll.

## Father Tsekenis proud of his new found joy.

Congratulations to Sydney Olympic's skipper Peter Tsekenis. His wife Denise gave birth to a bouncing baby boy called Arthur (Peter's father's name).

The little champ weighed in a 3.5 kilos and, according to the proud Dad, already exhibits great soccer talent and has been signed up by his club!

Hopefully baby Arthur can give Olympic the spark needed to qualify for next season's finals race.



Congratulations to Peter and his wife.



After penalties, the lads from the capital accounted for a brave Sydney Olympic in the NYL Northern Division Grand Final. Details of all the Youth on page 15.

## ADELAIDE'S YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY

By the 'Mug Punter'

What a season for SA both on and off the pitch. Nailbiting stuff for the Zebras on the pitch — would they not be in the finals for the first time in 10 years? Rumour and innuendo for the Sharks off the pitch — will they survive to play again in the National League?

Adelaide City managed to pull the frying pan out of the fire this season, squeezing into the finals at the last minute. Many locals thought that their luck would then take them all the way — but it wasn't to be.

The Zebras got off to their best ever start to the season, and when they beat the Sharks 5-0 on the first local derby, everything seemed to be set in their favour for a definite finals berth. Although this was never a 5-0 game, Adelaide City had all the luck — a good omen for the rest of the season.

The Zebras began the season playing with uncharacteristic attacking flair. Unfortunately, the Zebras hit a slump, and a string of away losses saw them plummet down the table.

Veteran coach Zoran Matic reverted to the play safe defensive tactics of old, and although accused of playing boring soccer, the team began to pick up points again. Carl Veart, back from England, was expected to make a deadly striking partnership with Damian Mori, but it never transpired.

Veart looked unfit through the entire season, and his comment at the weekend after scoring in the local Premier League that the pressure was off, indicated he did not feel comfortable at City. Mori, even though scoring a bagful of goals, by his own standards did not have a very good season.

The team was at times decimated by injury and National team commitments, but true to their never say die attitude, were still there at the end.

On the bright side, City did make it to the play-offs, even though they succumbed to a late Despotovski goal in Perth to make an early exit.

Alex Tobin, voted 88.5 Coast FM Player of the Year and Milan Ivanovic, third in the Player of the Year voting, again proved to be the greatest defence in the country. These two are simply a class above anybody else in the League.

Exciting new prospects David Terminello, Nick Sabljak and Louis Brain burst onto the scene, giving the City faithful hope for exciting times ahead.

The City marketing people also took the bull by the horns, taking players out to shopping centres and schools, giving away thousands of tickets, and providing special Zebra buses to the Northern areas of Adelaide.

After extensive market research, City is looking at playing its home games on Friday nights next season.

Hopefully this will boost crowd numbers and attract a broader cross section of the public.

Season '99 started in a blaze of glory for the Sharks under

new coach, ex-World Cup star Manfred Schaefer. Playing their best soccer for years, the Sharks were SA's entertainment team — exciting, adventurous, skilful. Unfortunately, key player Hamilton Thorp never attained fitness and faded from the scene. Then key Sydney import striker Derek Poirer retired injured and the wheels began to fall off.

After a heavy 5-0 thrashing of Wollongong, the Sharks went down to Adelaide City in the first derby by the same score. This was the death knell of their finals hopes, starting a five game losing streak and culminating in Manfred Schaefer's sacking.

Adrian Santrac stepped into the void, but the team ran hot and cold, their moment of glory coming in the second derby, where everyone at the game, City supporters included, cheered them from the pitch after a well deserved win. There had been an exodus of high profile players, supposedly through injury, but rumoured as a player walkout due to 6-8 weeks of non-payment to players.

Throughout this entire nightmare, one player stood out as a leader. Week after week, unassuming Richie Alagich, given a free floating midfield role, played from the heart, controlling games and constantly pressuring opposition keepers with an endless string of long range shots.

For his efforts Richie polled the highest number of votes in the 88.5 Coast FM Most Consistent Player of the Year Award. He also finished runner up in the 88.5 Coast FM Player of the Year Award.

The other bright lights to come out of the chaos were the young players — Nathan Wildy stepped up as a top rate goalkeeper, Joel Porter and Elias Demourtzidiz stamped their authority as strikers, Paul Pezos performed solidly at the back and Aaron Westervelt displayed great power, speed and determination as a midfielder.

Off the pitch, however, things were rotten in the state of West Adelaide! The Sharks went into voluntary receivership in an attempt to restructure the club and maintain a place in the National League in 2000. This is an ongoing saga. Their fate should be known in a month's time when Soccer Australia issues licences for the next season.

Currently, everyone in South Australia is confused over events — will West Adelaide apply in its own right? Will the 'Friends of West Adelaide' bail them out as the Sharks, or will they apply for a new licence?

Will the new applicants 'Adelaide United' be given the nod by Soccer Australia? Is 'Adelaide United' simply the Sharks in disguise?

South Australia may not have any teams in the grand final, but the whole state is abuzz with rumours as the Sharks' saga continues.

Read this space next week for an exclusive expose on the state of play in the Sharks, Adelaide United, 'Friends of West Adelaide' intrigue.





# 1999 Ericsson Cup Grand Final



## THE WORLD STAGE AWAITS THE WINNER



South Melbourne's Goran Lozanovski

feat in front of the fanatical Blue and White Army, who adore him. An experienced professional who loves the big games, having played in many during his time in the Greek First Division.

### NICK ORLIC:

Has led the Blues defence superbly this year. Always a highly-rated player during his time with Sydney Olympic and Parramatta Eagles, his tackling and perceptive distribution has been integral this year. One of the quickest defenders in the league.

### GORAN LOZANOVSKI:

A brilliant free-kick specialist. Injury is his only concern at time of writing. Has overseas ambitions, which may be sated by South's possible involvement with the World Club

Championships. Penchant for varying colours of boots, though we won't hold that against him! See his interview with the Four Diegos on page nine.

### SOUTH MELBOURNE: KEY MEN

#### PAUL TRIMBOLI:

Still one of the most inventive and creative linkmen and suppliers in the nation. Just on the right side of 30 he has plenty to offer and has the big match experience at club and international level. Will be looking to receive and turn, ideal for his incisive through balls to the attacking duo of Coveny and Curcija. Makes up for lack of pace with vision.

#### JOHN ANASTASIADIS:

Will probably start on the bench but is always a threat as an impact player. Scored last year and will want to repeat his

### DAVID CLARKSON:

At the time of writing it was unsure as to whether he would play. A tragedy involving his children has seen him consumed with different priorities these last two weeks. Has been the standout player this year with his high workrate and support to the front two. We all wish him and his family the best in this difficult time. Was replaced by Jason Polak against Sydney United, and the former Socceroo did not let the team down, showing again the depth in the squad.

#### COACH:

#### ANGE POSTECOGLOU:

Has quietly gone about his business of creating a squad that, if kept intact, could be the Man Utd of Australian soccer. Only in his early thirties, he has the poten-

tial to be an Australian national team coach in the new century. Is a good chance in the new millennium for a coaching position in the national rep sides first. Learnt his trade from the old master Frank Arok, but his style is uniquely his. Lets his results do the talking.

### Sydney United:

#### KEY MEN

#### WALTER ARDONE:

Combines a superb workrate with plenty of skill and flair. Perfect foil for the solid Steve Berry in midfield. Would love to win something after missing out with Sydney Olympic in the past. Will train this Thursday but will have a fitness test on Saturday to see if he is up to it. May start on the bench. (Is off to Norway in the off-season).

#### MILE STERJOVSKI:

The goal against Glory would have wiped away memories of misses in the return leg against South in Sydney. Arguably our finest young striker, his combination with both Nathan Day and Joel Griffiths has worked well. The burning question is: who will partner him?

#### VELIMIR KUPRESAK:

Three months shy of his 36th birthday, a Grand Final win would cap off a career that really only took off once he arrived at Sydney United from Victorian State League side St Albans in the early nineties. A rock in the defence, together with Vrkic and Plesa, the ideal player at the back in a Grand Final: experienced and fully committed. Ironically, he names his hardest team and opponent as Paul Trimboli and South Melbourne.

#### STEVE BERRY:

What can one say about this player. Looked like a turnip early on (and the supporters let him know it) but the 30 year old has worked incredibly hard to maintain a spot in the minor premiers' side, and now is poised to make a start in the Grand Final. A fairytale come true for the former Blacktown Demon in his first season in the NSL.

#### COACH:

#### DAVID MITCHELL:

If 'Mitch' can bring home the Cup to Sydney he will go down in history as



Puma dynamo Walter Ardone

being one of the best. Has, as he has put it, built a team spirit that has been able to withstand financial pressures on the club.

If judging a coach by making do with what is available, then Mitchell will go down as one of our best ever. Just making the Grand Final is a huge achievement.

A win would cement his claims as the best of the locally-based coach for the vacant Socceroo post.

\*The South Melbourne supporters club, which has been proactive all year in expanding South's support base, will be meeting at the Cricketers Arms Hotel on Punt Road Richmond at 11am. All fans are welcome.

\*Ticket prices for the final will be similar to last year's game, but this year there will be concessions, which should attract more fans than last year's game. South Melbourne are expecting a crowd of closer to 20,000.



NSW SOUTH WALES  
INSTITUTE OF SPORT

PRINCIPLE PARTNER



### COACH WOMEN'S SOCCER

The New South Wales Soccer Federation in conjunction with the NSW Institute of Sport is seeking a coach to Co-ordinate and implement its women's soccer program, which is part of the National ITC program. In addition the coach will undertake development visits to schools to promote the program and identify players. The successful candidate will work closely with the National Women's coach to prepare and co-ordinate annual training programs, individual and squad training sessions and sports science services. Experience in the following areas is essential:

- preparation of training programs for elite players
- knowledge of strength and conditioning and sports science
- a minimum level II NACS accreditation (and willingness to work towards level III during employment term)
- identification of younger players and implementation of a skills program leading to acceptance into NSWIS.

Experience in coaching at the elite level is desirable.

Total remuneration package: \$40,000 p.a. plus motor vehicle expenses. Contract is with the NSW Soccer Federation and is for one year with renewal subject to performance and funding.

For further information, contact Max Groll on (02) 9629 1800 or email: socnsw@ozemail.com.au

New South Wales Institute of Sport  
Leading Australian Sport into the 21st Century



# Australian News

## EXOTIC WORLD CUP FINAL IN NEWCASTLE

The finalists for the University Soccer World Cup have been decided with one semi-final a walk over and the other one as close as they come.

### Results were as follows:

In the first game Norway demolished Australia 7-0 with goals from Tore Boerke (2), Christer Bjorshol, Haakon Groenn, Christian Jaeger, and Magnus Svendsen sealing the Aussies' fate.

Norway bounced back after the early loss of Andreas Seljeseth through a broken leg, to easily overpower the Australians.

In the second semi-final Sweden started strongly with a goal by Joakim Larsson and looked in control of the match. The Swedes would have booked a place in the final if it wasn't for the heroics of Islander goalkeeper Joel Albert who denied Sweden on numerous occasions.

With seconds left on the clock, Islander Rollins Suluia made a penetrating run through midfield and slotted the ball in the bottom right corner of the Swedish net.

A goalless extra time period sent the game to penalties in which Joel Albert saved two penalties to send the Islanders to next week's final.

What has been a successful tournament will culminate this Wednesday May 26 (tomorrow) at University No.1 Oval with the following games:

All are welcome to witness World Cup fever.

Norway ..... 7 Australia ..... 0  
Sweden ..... 1 Islanders ..... 1  
(Islanders won 4-3 on penalties)

Playoff for Third - 6:00pm  
**Sweden v Australia**

Final - 7:30pm  
**Norway v Islanders**

## KNIGHTS' FORK IN THE ROAD

It's crunch time for Melbourne Knights. As we move into the new millennium this off-season is looming as seminal to their future direction.

With the money from the sale of Mark Viduka through and used to completely retire the club's debt, plus ownership of 12 acres of freehold land at Somers Street, the Knights are now on an even keel. Effectively, it's like starting from scratch.

Much of their future viability as an NSL Club will depend on the amount of corporate interest the club can attract in the off-season. There are also plans to offer shares to its members or put the idea of a 51% privatisation up for a vote.

"We are currently talking to potential investors," said Club President Steve Mandekic.

Last week the club jettisoned their General Manager Damien Phillips, but Mandekic left the door open for a possible return closer to the season.

"We have a girl in the office who seems to be handling things so that is why we did it," explained the Knights President. "I am in an unpaid position so I can do things as well. But it may be possible to bring Damien back closer to the start of the new season."

While Mandekic acknowledges the mistakes in the past ("we should have held onto the fans who followed us in the past because we had British players, I mean

look at Perth Glory now") he is proud of the "roots" of the club and believes they will always be there irrespective of any future name changes or marketing angles.

Ex-General Manager Damien Phillips, while disappointed with the decision, took it on the chin: "I would have liked to have a little more time in Soccer, it was barely a half a season I was there. Obviously it was my job to put forward ideas to make the club stronger. The future plans seem to have been disregarded by the board."

"It's going to be a tough future for the Club. There is no current cash flow. Actually there was no need to fully retire debt, they could have used some of the Viduka money to make them money in the future. Debt is not such a bad thing."

"I like the cut and thrust of sport and it is very enjoyable on a daily basis, so the decision was disappointing but you just got to cop it sweet."

\*Another Victorian based NSL General Manager has moved on. Gippsland Falcons' Mike Answorth has gone to the Victorian Racing industry. The club voted last week on Constitution amendments as part of a restructure of the Club.

## Have Your Say ...

Shortly after the Socceroos clash with FIFA All Stars game was first advertised five of us hurriedly bought tickets in order to obtain the best seats available.

We were naturally hoping that some of the world's top players would make themselves available for this once in a lifetime sporting event.

It now appears that this is not the case.

Beckham and Giggs have already declined, maybe they won't even come with Manchester United in July. Alongside Harry Kewell's column in last Sunday Telegraph other names and photographs appeared of players who will not make the trip. This to my way of thinking is false advertising.

I feel that if FIFA had in fact invited a number of players from around the globe, then the RSVP from these players should have been set for the 30th April in order to allow true advertisement of who would take the field on the 12th June to take place.

Assuming the following players have received an invitation to play, why did FIFA choose Del Piero (who hasn't played for months) Klinsmann (officially retired) and the lesser known Hadji, Kopke and West instead of Maldini, Tony Adams, Zola and other stars more familiar to the Australian fans.

Finally, let's hope that at least our own overseas based players will make the journey home instead of opting for a European summer holiday instead.

Ron Novello  
Little Bay NSW

Since your network secured the Television Rights to Soccer Australia's National and Ericsson Cup competitions. Soccer followers in the Soccer Far North Coast area have been deprived of an adequate coverage of these events on television in prime time viewing periods.

As you know your programs are relayed to our area through Prime. Enquiries by members of clubs to Prime have elicited replies like, "Don't know" or "It's up to Channel 7".

Our Association administers the world game in an area marginally bigger than the Sydney Metropolitan Wollongong area. Despite the scattered population in small country towns and one city, Lismore, we have registered players, totalling nearly 6000 under our care.

Our increase in junior members last season was 10% the increase being greater than the total number of juniors playing any of the other football codes in the Lismore area.

As the Women's World Cup and the World Youth Cup are coming up, our members have asked our Association to seek assurances that our Channel 7 will give adequate coverage of these events.

Private written enquiries over the past few months have been ignored by your management. That is why we are writing to you as Chief Executive.

May we suggest that your marketing people examine the strength of Soccer Football in the community. It is played by boys, girls, men and women and a rapidly growing group of Over 35s.

It is a game that can be played indoors as well as outdoors. It is a game for which skills can be developed by training alone.

You may be interested to learn that the Olympic Games in the United States, a "non-soccer" country, relied heavily for their income on the Football component. This was despite the games being scattered around the United States and Television coverage was almost non-existent.

Does Channel 7 plan to give live coverage of Australia's men's and women's games at our Olympics? How will country areas not serviced by Channel 7 be able to see these once in a lifetime events?

We await your reply, which will be distributed to the 32 Clubs which field 350 teams each week in our area.

Soccer Far North Coast Inc.,  
George Green  
\*copy of letter sent to Ch. 7

## WITH EVA ... Con Blatsis



Seasons with Sth. Melb: 4th

Nick Name: Blats

Favourite overseas player: Jaap Stam

Favourite overseas team: Manchester United

Most admired Aussie (local): Paul Trimboli

Most admired Aussie (overseas): Paul Okon

Biggest achievement so far: World Youth Cup, Championship with South Melbourne

Q1. Con, could you start with a rundown of the clubs you've played for so far in your career:

Clarinda 4 years, Bulleen 1, VIS 1/2 year, AIS 2 years, South Melbourne 4 current.

Q2. You've had an injury plagued season, are you finally back to your fittest self?

It was a very frustrating time for me, I had to work very hard to get back to my peak again, but I think I need a few more games to get match fitness back.

Q3. What does playing for South Melbourne mean to you?

It's like a dream come true, I can still remember the days when my father used to take me to watch South at Middle Park. It was always a goal of mine in life.

Q4: Did you always want to be a soccer player growing up?

Without a doubt.

Q5. In a word, describe the South Melbourne supporters.

Fanatical.

Q6. In a word, describe yourself.

Optimistic.

Q7. What is it like playing under former South Melbourne player Ange Postecoglou?

It's a great honour to be coached by such a professional.

Q8. What was it like playing for Australia in the World Youth Championships?

It was a great experience and very challenging. But for all our hard work we put in, I wish we could have achieved higher results.

Q9. What is the ultimate goal you'd like to achieve in your soccer career?

Would be to reach the highest level of competition that I can, and also represent Australia in the World Cup.

Q10. Away from the soccer field, what does Con Blatsis like to get up to?

Likes to spend most of my time with my girlfriend Aslin and family and I don't mind playing a round of golf.

Q11. Where do you see yourself in ten years time?

I haven't been to a fortune teller lately!

Q12. And finally Con, I have to ask you to complete this sentence, "Love is..."

Something that shouldn't be taken for granted.

Thankyou Con and best of luck for Sunday's big game.





# Australian News

## WILKINSON HEADING HOME TO BECOME A KING?

One name missing from the Glory Finals charge has been NZ international Gavin Wilkinson. The club has agreed to cancel his contract, which still has a year to run.

"Gavin wants to seek other opportunities, so we won't stand in his way," Glory general manager Roger Lefort said to Perth media.

Wilkinson, 25, could join new signing Marcus Stergiopoulos at Auckland Kings.

He will stay with the Glory until he leaves next month to take part in the Confederations Cup in Mexico with New Zealand.

Wilkinson was the Glory's player of the year in the club's first season in the NSL, but he has had limited opportunities this year under Bernd Stange and lost his place in the defence to former Sorrento youngster Jamie Hamwell and Italian import Gianfranco Circati.

The big Kiwi's last appearance was in the final regular league season game, away against Wollongong Wolves a month ago.

Meanwhile, local McInerney Ford Premier League leader Sorrento has signed defender Shaun Murphy, who was a junior player with the Seagulls.

The 28-year-old, who was recently released by English first division club West Brom, will play a series of guest games for Sorrento.

The Glory is known to be keen to sign Murphy, who was a guest of the club at last Saturday's minor semi-final win over Marconi at the WACA Ground.

"That was an amazing experience," said Murphy to local media, who played for the State team against West Ham at the same venue four years ago. "I never thought I'd see so many people at a soccer match in Perth."

Murphy said he was aware of the Glory's interest, but had yet to speak to the club.

"I've received a few offers from other clubs in England and one in Holland and in Israel," he said.

"West Brom offered me another contract, but it wasn't what I wanted. I hope to talk to the Glory in the next few weeks."

West Coast went head-to-head with Perth Glory in a television ratings war. The Eagles-Sydney AFL clash at the SCG came up against the Glory-Sydney United cut-throat NSL elimination final in Sydney.

Channel 2 announced it would televise the Glory game live as a result of the success of the previous Saturday's direct cover of the Glory-Marconi semi-final at the WACA Ground which attracted 395,000 viewers, rating an incredible 30 at its peak.

On Sunday, the Glory game started at 1pm (Perth time) and the Eagles match 20 minutes later.

Independent of Channel 2's decision, the AFL and Channel 7 changed the Eagles-Sydney starting time from 12.10pm and moved the Brisbane-Geelong match at the Gabba to 10.40am, giving football viewers a double-header.



Gavin Wilkinson ... will stay at Glory until the start of the Confederations Cup.

Naturally Channel 2 was delighted with the success of the Saturday night Glory telecast with Marconi.

"The audience of 395,000 reflects the overwhelming popularity of soccer amongst the Western Australian public — and we're pleased to give the WA public the chance to see Sunday's historic sporting first," ABC's WA State manager Geoff Duncan said.

Penny Tassone, of the ABC's marketing department, said the station had received up to 400 calls congratulating the ABC on its live Saturday night broadcast.

She added that after the Perth Glory and Sydney United game nationally people now must realise how "frenzied" the fans have become with Soccer in the West. "Now Geoff Barlow and the ABC sports team in Sydney has stood up and taken notice of Perth. Next year you may see a more serious commitment to cover Soccer, particularly if Glory make the Finals again."

"It's quite exciting to think that something other than AFL has struck at the heart of the sporting fans in WA. Even Channel 7 was surprised by what we have achieved. We are happy that we could take the game live from Sydney, it was on the back of a tremendous viewer demand."

"We're not trying to compete with football. I think both codes can exist side by side, but it shows that we're expanding," added Perth Glory's dynamic General Manager Roger Lefort.

On Sunday, the Glory game rated an 11, which, for a Sunday is very good.

Well-done ABC Sport and well-done Perth Glory for a superb season.

## Juric signs for Leverkusen

Former Melbourne Knights and Socceroo goalkeeper, Frank Juric, has signed a lucrative three year deal to play for one of Germany's top football sides.

Bayern Leverkusen has secured the signing of the young Australian, who will now become one of the highest paid Australian soccer stars abroad, along with the likes of Bosnich, Kewell and Okon.

Juric was sort out by a number of clubs around Europe including sides from Holland, Germany and Italy.

Juric transfers to Leverkusen from fellow German side, Fortuna Dusseldorf as a free agent and will join the Bundesliga side for pre-season training in mid July.

The signing with Leverkusen also gives Juric the chance to play in the European Champions League next season, playing amongst the world's most elite clubs including Manchester United, AC Milan and fellow German side Bayern Munich.

Juric who has represented the Socceroos, as well as being a member of Australia's Atlanta Olympics team in 1996, is delighted at the prospect of joining one of Germany's top sides and enhancing his reputation as a top line goalkeeper.

The Brisbane Strikers in conjunction with Flavor's radio show are holding a live performance at the Strikers club house at Perry Park, Saturday 29 May.

The line up of performers on the night is led by singers on the FRS record company which represents Wayne Knipe.

The party is to promote the release of "El Loco", Doors open at 7pm on the night and the entry fee is \$5. For more information on the event, listen to Radio 4ZZZ 102.1 on Thursday from 10 to 12.

And well-done to Steve Laybutt of Brisbane



Frank Juric ... may play in Champions League next season.

Strikers, for winning the Hyundai players' player of the year at his club. The rookie of the year was Wayne Shroj while the La Dolce Vita restaurant award for the Golden Boot went to Stuart McLaren for his seven goals. Thor will be happy!

## National Round Up

In the Soccer West Coast Premier Division In Western Australia, Western Knights consolidated their position at the top of the ladder with a 3-0 victory over the Ingelburn Strikers with goals to McVittie and Singeorzan, who put two past the Strikers defence.

Second place Sorrento could only manage a two-two draw against Ashfield-Bunbury to fall two points behind the leaders, Western Knights are on 18 points after playing 7 games.

At the bottom of the table, Kingsway Olympic were smashed 5-0 away to Stirling Lions with goals from Minar with two, Ashley and Nicolaou.

Across the border in South Australia, the SA Premier Division was into its tenth round as leaders Cumberland United were beaten 3-1 away to West Torrens Birkalla with a hat-trick to striker

Jason Trimboli. Cumberland responded with a goal by Leane.

Fellow league leaders Elizabeth City also went down away from home, this time against the Raiders by 2-1 with goals to Perin and Keens — Donovan got one back for City.

With both the leaders losing this week, the league table has bunched up with the top six all within three points of each other.

In the ICU Premier League, Wollongong Olympic is the leader after eight rounds equal with Northern United, followed closely by Coniston Lions, Kemblawarra and Bulli.

This week Kemblawarra play at home against Fernhill and across town, league leaders Wollongong Olympic play third placed Coniston Lions away from home.

## ANZAC CUP CLASH THIS WEEK

The New South Wales Soccer Federation has named a strong squad for the re-arranged ANZAC Cup game against Northern New South Wales to be played on Saturday May 29.

The game was originally washed out on ANZAC Day, but the game will now go ahead on Saturday at Jack McLaughlin Oval.

Kick off is 3:00pm, with the ANZAC Shield clash between the women's teams kicking off at 1:00pm.

The squad selected by former Socceroo defender Doug Utjesenovic contains just the one change to the original squad, Canterbury Marrickville's Jim Nikas being unavailable, so his place is taken by Parramatta's Ahmed Elrich.

The full squad is —  
Alex Trposki — BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS  
Richard Luksic — BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS  
Borislava Dragas — BONNYRIGG WE

Paul Richardson — BONNYRIGG WE  
Robert Gomez — BONNYRIGG WE  
Peter Preston — CENTRAL COAST  
Frank Mikuletic — LEICHHARDT TIGERS  
Tom Bazdaric — LEICHHARDT TIGERS  
Matthew Lowe — BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS  
Jason Bennett — BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS  
Ahmed Elrich — PARRAMATTA EAGLES  
Matthew Borg — FAIRFIELD BULLS  
John Crawley — MACARTHUR RAMS  
Dion Valle — MACARTHUR RAMS  
David Reid — MACARTHUR RAMS  
Kain Rastall — MACARTHUR RAMS  
Trevor Whiddett — MACARTHUR RAMS  
Craig Sharpley — RYDE CITY

Coach — Doug Utjesenovic  
Manager — Laki Konistis



Frank Mikuletic ... one of two Leichhardt Tigers in the Anzac Cup clash.

## GALA DAY SPECTACULAR

LAMBERT PARK

Marion Street, Leichhardt on

Sunday 30 May 1999

featuring

BATTLE OF NSW'S TWO MOST PRESTIGIOUS CLUBS

Leichhardt Tigers v Canterbury Marrickville

### MATCH DAY PROGRAM

8AM GATES OPEN

8:45am U/11 Cadet League • 9:45am U/12 Cadet League •

11am U/18s • 1pm U/21s

2:30pm Introduction & Presentation of Leichhardt Tigers

Youth & Cadet Leagues & Junior Players

3:00pm 1st Grade Kick-Off

Major Sponsor **BARILLA**

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# Australian Features

## HAPPINESS AT ALL COSTS FOR OUR PLAYERS

Australia has quite a large contingent of players attempting to make their mark in overseas competitions. Much talk has been made over the lack of quality soccer players left in Australia because all our players leave for these competitions.

To some degree, it reminds me of a controversy I consulted on previously, where a small country town was disappointed that a young player from their district was leaving their town competition to play in a more highly developed competition in another town.

Some of the town's soccer community were upset that the youth was not being loyal to the people that had trained him or her into the talented player that he or she had turned into.

From their point of view, they had given a lot of their time and coaching into the player, and the player and their family were not being fair to them by leaving the local competition.

This is one way that the situation may be viewed. Let us look at the possible consequences of such a view.

(1) The player remains in the other competition and his or her family and the player begin to detest the soccer community they came from. This soccer community blackmarks the player from their soccer community so that current players view this player as a traitor to their competition, some players and their family may support the players, and so there is the possibility of division of the community.

(2) The player returns to the soccer

community and plays in the local competition. The player may lose interest

in soccer totally, or may thrive in the local competition. However, the player may

feel that he was never supported by the community to chance an opportunity to 'make it big'.

The situation may also be viewed in a totally different way. The soccer community may fully support the player to face an opportunity to excel in soccer. Although the community may lose one of its most talented, they are proud in the fact that their time and coaching aided the talent of the player to get the player this opportunity.

The soccer community are left as "proud parents" setting their child free, as it were, but always remain proud of the player's achievements. The player will also feel the support and remain grateful for it.

At the worst, this gratitude may never

be directly portrayed to the community. At best, the player will forever laud praises for his or her beginnings, ... for where his or her talent was nurtured, and the community will become known for support of youth players.

Other younger, talented players may move to this community to also feel this support the talent was given.

Of course, the scenario outlined may be extreme, but the difference in the outcomes of feelings and the perceptions of the people involved are astounding. The first situation is one where all parties are left disappointed, and feel as if they have lost support and loyalty.

There is conflict there now, which could prove difficult to resolve. The second scenario is more of a win-win situation for all parties.

The player has the opportunity to improve his physical and mental skills by playing at a higher level.

And, if unhappy in this situation, the player would feel comfortable returning to the local competition.

The soccer community would take pride in the achievement of 'their' player, and may attract other youth players to the area because of the excellent development of the player.

Then, if the player returns to the local competition, there will be no ill feelings held by their party.

In 1998, three SWQLD players received soccer scholarships to USA universities. SWQ soccer has supported them in their endeavours and reaped the benefits, with opportunities for return visits by USA university teams, and

further scholarship opportunities becoming available.

The boys are also happy that they have been supported in their decision to play in a league with greater opportunity to excel in their soccer.

This brings me to the most important point about these situations; the happiness, interests, and motivations of the players involved. People participate in soccer for many reasons. So, as part of a soccer community, we need to be more aware of this when decisions to play in other competitions are made.

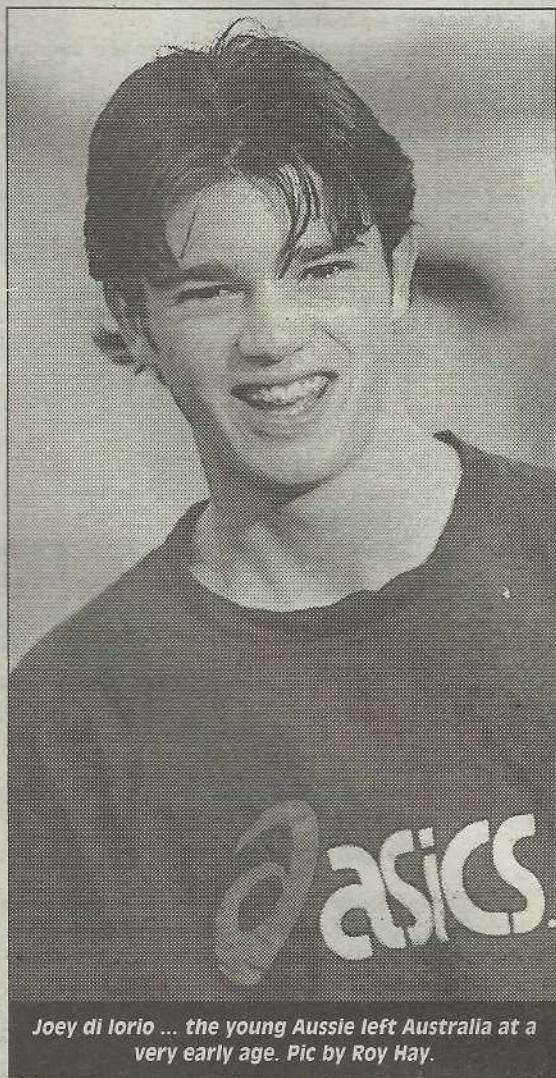
The player may be motivated to play in the highest level possible, and may believe that the competition he or she is now does not give him the best opportunity to reach his or her goal.

If not allowed to play in the other competition for some reason, the player will undoubtedly not be happy, and his motivation, and onfield performance will decrease.

Thus, as members of the soccer community, we have to be more aware of why players may be making these decisions, and also be aware of the positives that may come from such endeavours rather than focussing on the immediate disappointment.

After all, if our aim is to improve the game of soccer for all, then the player's happiness is vital to this!

Kieran Morrow is courtesy of Morrow Psychological Consulting, on 041 366 741 263.



Joey di Iorio ... the young Aussie left Australia at a very early age. Pic by Roy Hay.

## SAINTS PLANNING HEAVENLY FUTURE

By Aidan Ormond

Debate over an NSL bid for the South of Sydney is gathering momentum. Many feel that this is a perfect area for an Ericsson Cup club along the lines of the North Shore's Northern Spirit.

Leading the charge for this precious spot in the big league is a grand old name in local soccer: St. George.

St George currently plays in the NSW First Division (its player/coach is ex-NSL defender Paul Carter) but they have ambitious plans for a return to the national stage.

After all, the area has produced an impressive number of players that are currently playing in the Ericsson Cup, including Jacob Burns (Sydney United).

Backing the club's plans is millionaire businessman Jim Skouloudis.

Speaking to Soccer Weekly, Club

President, Bill Bariamis, a St George district soccer identity and businessman, feels that the involvement of the St George association in the club is vital to their plans, as is the investment made by Skouloudis.

"We have approximately 6,000 registered players, and currently we have Simon Verrender and keeper Trinity Allen in the first division rep side that toured the Pacific. We have, and will continue to produce quality players from this district, it's just that they don't have a local club playing in the NSL," he lamented.

"It is vital that the local association is involved — we are looking towards making the Super League then NSL.

"We feel that the Southern part of Sydney has been neglected in the past, the area has been crying out for it. Sutherland can work in with us, but the base of that pyramid has to be a strong pool of players derived from the association.

"Between the St George and Sutherland areas," he explained, "we have about 18,000 registered players."

There have been other bids, one in particular from the Cronulla and Sutherland areas. These, however, do not phase Bariamis.

"Assuming we make a bid then there

could be two bids. Obviously our major backer would need to be consulted if there was a decision to amalgamate bids, but we feel ours is pretty strong.

"We are not going to jump into it, but the redevelopment of the St George Stadium at Rockdale is on the cards, at great cost I might add.

"St George is a great sporting area, what with the Rugby League, even Don Bradman played cricket here. We are a broad-based soccer organisation, and that is how it will remain," he stresses.

"Now with Mr Skouloudis' backing our plans can really move forward. The south is crying out for someone to be there, particularly as Sydney Olympic is not interested in the area."

A broadly-based club drawing players and support from the St George and south regions of Sydney certainly makes sense. And St George have the backing from their millionaire businessman to put money where their mouth is.



Mark Brennan ... along with Leo Carle the Olympic player is one of the stars playing at St George during winter.



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# Australian Features



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FOOTBALL MOVIE

### The Arsenal Stadium Mystery (1939)

A baggy shorted footballer croaks in the middle of a match at Highbury. 'Gor Blimey Guv' nor, strike a light and pass the Pale Ale'.

A movie in which everyone sounds like Alf Ramsey if being played by Harry Enfield. Catch glimpses of Gooner legends Cliff Bastin, Ted Drake and Alex James, and wonder why every Englishman in 1939 wore a flat cap, shirt and tie. No wonder the Hun bombed the North Bank.

### Goal (1966)

The 'Official Movie of the 1966 World Cup' is as much a record of Swinging Sixties London as 'Help!' or 'The Italian Job'.

Shot in glorious Technicolor, written by Brian Glanville, and featuring a feast of great football from Charlton and Eusebio, dastardly fouling from Antonio Rattin, and little Nobby Stiles' victory dance. Great haircuts, short shorts, and simple shirts — surely the most stylish of all World Cup tournaments?

### Kes (1969)

Brian Glover, playing Mr. Sugden the games teacher, and wearing a Man U kit, puts bunch of thirteen year olds through their paces.

'Who are you today, Sir. Liverpool?' asks a bedraggled pupil.

'Rubbish lad. Don't you know your club colours? Manchester United strip this. I'm Bobby Charlton



today', answers Sir, before going on to shoulder-charge a schoolie ('Fat twat! He wants flaming milking, the big fat git'), and then taking a dive in the penalty area before dispatching the penalty himself.

### The Goalkeeper's Fear of the Penalty (1971)

Directed by Wim Wenders, German art-film DKaiser, TGFOTP (pictured above) explores a basic existential dilemma. Who has most to fear: the penalty taker or the goalie?

The German custodian of the piece is so discombobulated by the experience he leaves the field during the game and wanders aimlessly through the streets of mittel-Europa searching for himself.

Because it's a European art film, he normally finds

### Football, as a movie theme, has had an unusual history in modern cinema. Craig

### Wilson reviews the highs and lows of this coming together of art and sport ...

himself in a bar drinking lots of beer, or in bed with a series of delicious blonde frauleins. Jurgen Klinsmann never had it as good.

does feature the 1991 Arsenal away kit — thought to have been banned for obscenity.

### GREGORY'S GIRL (1981)

Notable for being set in Scotland — a fashion backwater where feather-cut hair, taches, and thirty inch bell-bottoms are considered chic.

Gordon John Sinclair falls in love with the female striker of his school football team, thereby missing out on the far cuter charms of Clare Grogan, late of Altered Images and Red Dwarf.

Sinclair left a nation of British schoolboys seething at his stupidity, and started a style revolution that was to influence Australian designers for decades.

### ESCAPE TO VICTORY (1981)

Featuring Pele, Bobby Moore, and the 1981 Ipswich Town UEFA Cup winning team, the story revolves around Sylvester Stallone and his attempts to make the Stalag Luft 13 First XI.

He achieves this by breaking Kevin O'Callaghan's leg and taking his place in goal.

When the Boche find out they challenge the POWs to a game of footy, having failed to recognise that Mick Mills is playing, heavily disguised by a dodgy moustache.

Despite diving in the penalty area, Caine fails to convince either the ref or the audience, proving what a bad actor he really is.

Realising that Mills' moustache is in fact real, incensed film critics charge on to the pitch. In the ensuing confusion the POWs climb onto motorcycles and jump the barbed wire fence to freedom.

### WHEN SATURDAY COMES (1996)

Sean Bean plays an ordinary Sheffield lad who dreams of playing for United, and finding out what Emily Lloyd looks like naked. So he makes a film about it.

### FEVER PITCH (1996)

Nick Hornby's tale of Arsenal obsession is brought to convincing life by Colin Firth. Even for those who don't follow the Gooners, the scene where young Hornby first ascends the steps of Highbury are goose-pimply in the extreme.

A fabulous soundtrack featuring Van Morrison, the La's, and Slade, and a goldmine of forgotten terrace chants and fashions.

Children should be warned however — the movie

### I.D. (1996)

Based on Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness, the Plod go undercover at Millwall FC in an attempt to infiltrate a hooligan 'firm'. Brainwashed by chemicals in the Bovril, our hero becomes the hooligan Guv' nor.

The Keystone Kops are sent to rescue him with hilarious results. Notable for the advanced age of many of the participants, and winner of the Fifth Annual Arthur Fonzarelli 'Oldest Teenager in Show Business Award' (since awarded to the cast of Heartbreak High).

### THE MATCH (1999)

Another of those cute Celtic comedies where instead of sitting around sniffing glue and listening to Iggy Pop, the cast pretend to be loveable milkmen and farm hands.

The lead character is a football statistician who falls in love with the town beauty. For some reason she fails to find this attractive, but because Pierce Brosnan is the producer she is forced to respond by the end of scene 27.



Pele ... starred alongside Mick Mills' dodgy moustache in 'Escape to Victory'.

## WIN GREAT CD SOUNDTRACKS

If you saw Soccer Weekly last week, you would have seen my interview with Director Neil Mansfield. His current movie is the new Australian offering called *Fresh Air*, a flick based on three people sharing a house in suburban Marrickville (home of Soccer Weekly). It also has a fair bit of football in it too.

The makers of this fine new movie (The Movie Show gave it a thumbs up and it's in the top three most popular movies in Australia in its first week) have given us some great prizes. Just answer this question and the first three correct envelopes pulled out of the barrel by Mary (our resident barrel girl) will win the movie's CD soundtrack. WE PULL THE PRIZES ON JUNE 7, SO HURRY.

There are also consolation prizes of tickets to the movie at the Dendy in Newtown (Sydney), copies of the movie's fanzine and free tickets to ride public transport for a day in Sydney (so you can see a soccer game or the movie, or both!!).

So answer this question and send to Soccer Weekly, Fresh Air Competition, 7 Garners Ave, Marrickville, 2204,

**THE QUESTION IS ... THE MOVIE FRESH AIR IS SET IN SYDNEY'S MARRICKVILLE. WHICH NSW SUPER LEAGUE SIDE PLAYS IN THIS SUBURB?**



# Australian Features

## BLUES BROTHER FROM WAY OUT WEST

To hear the name Petkovic read out as the Goalkeeper of the Year would surprise few people, only the favourite this year is Michael, not Jason.

South Melbourne's Michael Petkovic looks set to break his brother Jason's hold on the award — he's won it the last two years — after an outstanding season between the sticks.

Going into this weekend's Grand Final, Petkovic has been beaten just 27 times, not even once a game.

He has always been regarded as a steady 'keeper, it's only this season that many have become to realise that he's a lot more than that.

His coach, Ange Postecoglou, has been saying for some time now, that he believes he has, in Petkovic, the best goalkeeper in Australia in his side, but perhaps doesn't get the recognition he often deserves.

"He tends to do things fairly easily" said Postecoglou, "he's not a 'keeper who is spectacular, he just does the simple things, because of that he doesn't get noticed as much as he should."

"As a player he has been a stand-out. When I look at who people are pushing for the player of the year award, I know he's a goalkeeper and people don't look at them but I think he's been that good this year that his name should be with them."

The modest Petkovic is quick to point out that he isn't the sole reason for South having the most miserly defence this season, but does admit that he's in the best form of his career.

"I've been happy with what I've done this year, I think I've been a bit more

**He has been the rock behind the team that is going for back-to-back championships this Sunday. He is one half of our most famous goalkeeping brothers. He is destined for overseas glory. He is ... Michael Petkovic. Dwyght Tuffnell meets the man on the eve of the biggest game of the season ...**

consistent and I've been concentrating harder and just generally playing better" says Petkovic.

A trial with Belgian team Club Brugge, opened his eyes to what happens in Europe, another factor, says Petkovic, into his terrific season.

"I've learnt what they expect from you over there, pushing myself harder at training is something I took out of experience."

he'll get the ball so they concentrate on other things."

Petkovic said the team had an aim this season, to concede less than they did last year.

They did this comfortably, sacrificing a more attacking style.

"We were a lot more attacking last season" said Petkovic. "That's probably why we conceded more goals."

"We haven't scored as many this season but we know that if we can keep a clean sheet, we're going to score at some stage."

"It might take us until the 90th minute, but we'll get the goal, if we keep a clean sheet, we know we'll

get the result.

"It's happened a couple of times this year, we've held out and got that one chance and scored to get us the three points. We're not always going to come off the ground with lots of goals goals, in some games you'll only get one or two chances."

Petkovic is confident about the big one at Olympic Park this weekend, and you get the feeling it's going to have to be a very special goal that beats him, like the one Richard Plesa scored for Sydney United.

"We're the favourites" he says plainly.

"Any game that South Melbourne plays, we never should go in as the underdog, especially a final with all the experience we've got."

"Everyone's probably expecting us to win it easily but it's never going to be like that, no game is ever easy for us."

There is a chance though, that this may be the last time we'll see the 22 year-old in Australia before embarking on a professional career overseas.

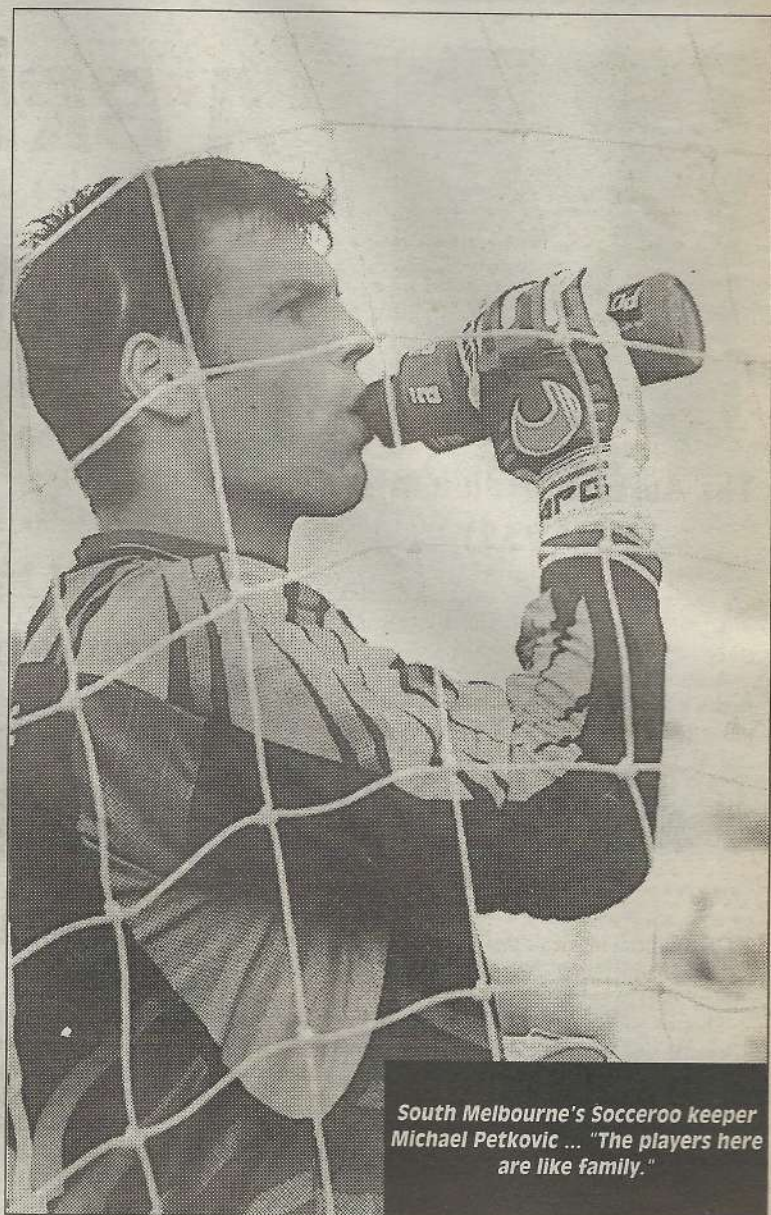
"There could be a chance of that. I'd love to play overseas but it doesn't have to be just yet. I'm still young and I'd be just as happy to stay here getting more experience and learning a bit more before I do go over."

"I'm still enjoying it here, it's a big club and I'm full time, training every day, but I'd still like to go that one step higher to test myself."

"I haven't planned anything, I don't have it in mind at the moment, if it happens, I'll be rapt, if it doesn't, I'm not going to be disappointed."

Petkovic has already trialed in Europe and Postecoglou believes he can more than make the grade.

"He can go as far as he wants to in this game. His attitude is good, he is still young and he's improving all the time" Postecoglou said.



South Melbourne's Soccerroo keeper Michael Petkovic ... "The players here are like family."

"I've said to people that Mark Schwarzer and Zeljko Kalac were the stand-out young 'keepers' I've seen and I think Petka's as good, if not better than them at the same age and look where they are now: he would be comfortable in any league in the world, I've got no doubt about that."

Like his brother, Michael had to leave his home in Perth to realise his dream of playing at the highest level in Australia.

Leaving family and friends at 19 would have been too much for some people, but for Petkovic it has been almost too easy.

"It was a bit difficult at the start, but this is something I always wanted to do, I just wanted to play soccer."

"The players here are like my family now, they've been great. At the end of the day, this has been a fantastic move for me, I've been over the moon since joining South, I've been selected in the Olyroos and been involved with the Soccerroos."

"No matter where I went, I would have adjusted. This has been my ambition, I would've sacrificed anything for it."

Being involved with the Soccerroos on a more permanent basis is Petkovic's ultimate goal, even though the competition for the jersey is so strong.

"My ambition has

always been to play for Australia. All I can do is perform on the field and hope to be selected, I'm still young with a lot of years in front of me."



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# MAY IS... ERICSSON CUP FINALS

Please note, these fixtures are supplied by Soccer Australia, and are correct at time of printing. Please check local guides in case of changes. We accept no responsibility for any late changes to fixtures, or incorrect information supplied to us.

## RESULT

### Preliminary Final

Sydney Utd	2
Perth Glory	1

Marconi Stadium, Sydney

## THIS WEEK

# GRAND FINAL

Sunday May 30

**South Melbourne v  
Sydney United**

Olympic Park, Melbourne







# ERICSSON CUP PRELIMINARY FINAL



# GLORY GLORY SYDNEY UNITED



## Fairytale comes true for Berry and pumped-up Pumas

**SYDNEY UNITED 2**  
Sterjovski 13, Berry 70  
**PERTH GLORY 1**  
Boutsianis 85  
At Marconi Stadium, Sydney  
Preliminary Final

By John Vrtaric

The fairytale story continued for Sydney United as they disposed of the invaders from the west, Perth Glory. A well-deserved 2-1 victory at 'neutral' Marconi Stadium catapulted the impoverished club to its second grand final in three years.

In front of what was a disappointing crowd for a game of this stature, the teams provided the fans with an exciting game which ebbed and flowed with both teams creating many opportunities.

Nevertheless, Sydney United looked in control for most of the game having obtained the much sought after early goal in the 13th minute.

Whilst the crowd was well behaved through most of the game two incidents illustrated the problems hampering the progress of football in Australia.

Despite the (secret) fines dished out to clubs whose fans set off flares during matches this game was witness to at least two flares, one of which was thrown onto the field within close proximity to the Perth Glory penalty box.

The second incident occurred in the 31st minute when Glory defender Craig Deans was injured in a tussle with United's Mile Sterjovski. Deans' shoulder seemed to pop-out and he lay on the ground in pain whilst waiting for a stretcher to take him off the field. He waited and waited.... No stretcher in sight and eventually he had to be assisted off the field by two of his team-mates.

Glory coach, Bernd Stange, made three changes to the team that defeated Marconi last week.

Alistair Edwards started in place of John Markovski, Gianfranco Circati took over the role of sweeper in place of Danny Hay and, surprisingly, young Michael Garcia, returning from injury, was preferred to the free kick specialist, Con Boutsianis.

Stange's opposite David Mitchell made only one change, a forced one at that. Walter Ardone succumbed to his lingering muscle injury and was replaced by Michael Santalab who played left wing back with Peter Bennet taking Ardone's midfield role.

Mitchell resisted the temptation to bring back the exciting Joel Griffiths as Mile Sterjovski's strike partner with Nathan Day retaining his place and he didn't let his coach down with an excellent performance.

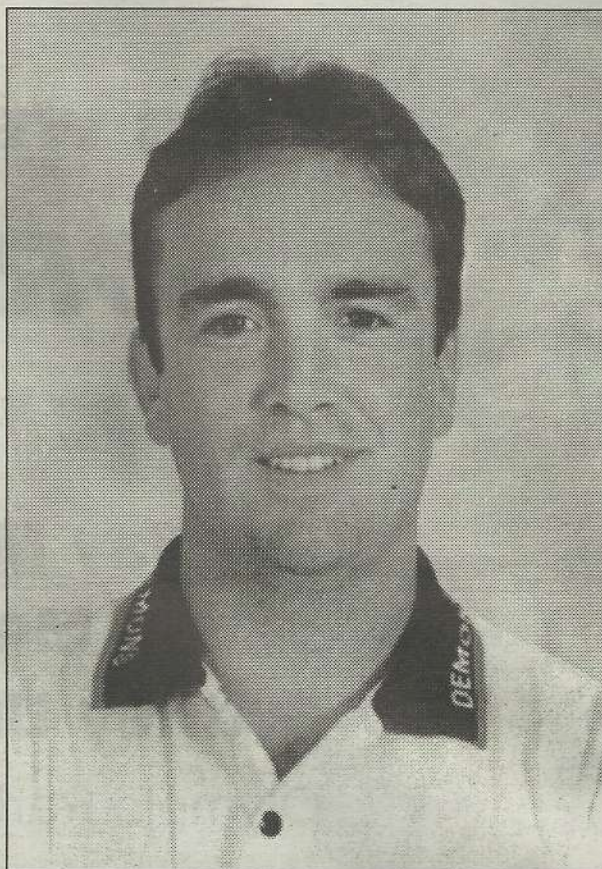
The match started off brightly with Perth Glory exploding off the blocks as it strived to get the early goal.

As early as the second minute a combination between Edwards and Troy Halpin released the latter down the right but his low cross was cleared.

The clearance only reached Circati on the edge of the penalty box and his first time volley reached the head of Bobby Despotovski but was deflected wide of 'the keeper's' right post by central defender Joe Vrkic.

A second corner resulted from the ensuing corner and this time a clearance reached the lurking Jamie Harnwell, again on the edge of the box, and his right foot volley was, again, deflected past the post, this time on the left.

Glory attacked in waves and the 9th minute a long clearance found the feet of Edwards on the left. He took the ball deep into Glory's attacking left-hand corner



Steve Berry ... his goal put Sydney United into the final.

from where he delivered a deep cross.

Glory wingback Scott Miller followed the action and positioned himself in the central striker's role, just inside the box. He outjumped the defence to post a powerful header towards United keeper, Mike Gibson, but his direction was astray and it passed harmlessly by Gibson's left post.

Two minutes later another combination, this time between Despotovski and Edwards finished in an Edwards shot from the corner of the penalty box which was directed straight at Gibson who saved easily.

United had the best possible reply to this Perth onslaught. In the 13th minute bargain buy Steve Berry received the ball inside the Perth half and delivered a telling through ball to Sterjovski. The youngster had lost his marker Deans and had too much speed for the sweeper Circati. He rounded him easily and sped towards Anthony Franken's right post and coolly slotted the ball inside the near post to open the scoring.

Three minutes later a chance for Sterjovski to bury the opponent. A cross from the left found Day separated from his marker and he had plenty of time to head the ball into the path of his striking partner just inside the six-yard box. Sterjovski beat Franken to the ball but his header beat the left post as well as the 'keeper.

In the 21st minute another long range effort from Circati posed problems for Gibson as it bounced off his chest and out of his hands but no Perth striker was close enough to take advantage and the ball was easily cleared.

United's Day was the busiest striker on the field by now and he had two good opportunities to put his team further in front.

In the 23rd minute a cross from Bennett on the right provided Day with a clear header which he guided past Franken's right post.

Two minutes later he came much closer. Berry released Jacob Burns down the right hand side where he

took the ball deep into the corner from where he flighted a ball towards Day. The striker outjumped his opponent and headed towards Franken's right post. This time he was more accurate but the post got in the way and the ball was cleared.

The ensuing ten minutes were somewhat more sedate and it wasn't until the 37th minute when another opportunity presented itself.

Another Edwards' run down the left flank produced a well directed cross which forced Velimir Kupresak to back head an unconvincing clearance that found the boot of Robert Trajkovski but his volley was miss hit and lobbed harmlessly over the bar.

In the 43rd minute a neat build up between Halpin, Edwards and Garcia concluded with a low hard shot from the latter. The shot posed some difficulty for Gibson but he was able to scramble the ball past his left post.

Deep into injury time United produced another chance from a corner on the left. A ground ball to Bennett outside the penalty box was designed to provide him with the opportunity to shoot but his attempt was blocked.

The ball ricochet into the path of Burns deep inside the penalty box but his well struck shot was saved brilliantly by Franken on the near post.

The second half started off slowly and it wasn't until the 54th minute that the first scoring opportunity fell to Garcia after an exchange of passes between Despotovski and him. His rasping left foot shot was well hit but Gibson was equal to it and saved well.

A minute later a Santalab cross field pass over the top found Day beating the offside trap (according to the linesman at least!) and he strode with the ball into the penalty box but his right foot shot was cleared by the feet of Franken.

The game stagnated somewhat for a period until the 70th minute. Mitchell had brought on the explosive Griffiths for Sterjovski who had received a minor knock the coach did not want to take any chances with it.

Griffiths received a long ball deep on Perth's right flank where he took on Hay. He cut back inside his pursuer and delivered a right foot cross to the middle. Harnwell was heading towards the dipping ball but slipped at a most crucial moment and watched as the ball sped past him to the marked foot of Berry.

The midfielder took two paces and calmly stroked the ball past Franken's right and off the far post into the goal for a match winning 2-0 lead.

Perth Glory needed to hit back quickly and this they did. In the 72nd minute a Trajkovski cross from the right found the head of Edwards again and his header was powerful but well saved by Gibson and then quickly cleared by David Barrett in front of the lurking Markovski.

One minute later a through ball to Halpin was brilliantly squared across the goal-mouth and put away by Markovski but Halpin was adjudged to be offside.

In the 76th minute another combination by the 'Bees' — Berry to Burns who crossed deep from the left over the head of Miller onto the chest of Day.

The striker brought the ball down onto his left foot and it beat Franken but not the bar as it bounced out to safety.

A minute later a Day chip puts Burns in the clear with

### MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 8,355

Referee: M. Shield.

**Sydney United:** Gibson, Barrett, Santalab, Plesa, Kupresak, Vrkic, Bennett, Burns, Berry, Sterjovski (Townsend 62), Day (Griffiths 77).

**Perth Glory:** Franken, Trajkovski, Miller, Circati, Harnwell, Deans (Hay 31), Naven, Garcia (Boutsianis 71), Halpin, Edwards, Despotovski (Markovski 56).

### Red:

Glory: Franken 87

### Yellows:

United: Kupresak 85

Glory: Circati 48

### Players Votes of the Year:

3: Berry (Sydney United)

2: Day (Sydney United)

1: Burns (Sydney United)

plenty of time to shoot but his shot from the corner of the penalty box is straight at Franken.

After having replaced Garcia in the 71st minute Boutsianis featured in many of Perth's attacks. He was prominent in two highlights — in the 84th and 85th minute.

In the first he received the ball about 32 metres out from Gibson's goal and let fly with one his famed left foot shots. Gibson did very well to get his hands to the ball and deflect it away to safety.

A minute later he was more successful — a deep cross from Markovski on the left sailed over the head of Bennett on the far post and onto the sweet and unmarked left foot of Boutsianis. With plenty of time on his hands he had no trouble to stroke the ball past Gibson inside the far post.

Glory kept on attacking right to the end but time ran out for them and United hung on for a meritorious victory.

United were best served by their midfield team of "Bees" — Berry, Burns and Bennett whilst Day was a handful for the Glory defence and was unlucky not to end up on the goal scorer's sheet.

Miller, Edwards and Halpin stood out for Perth and Boutsianis injected skill and speed when he came on.

Mitchell was obviously very pleased with his team's performance and likened it to their performance earlier on in the season against Perth when they lost 4-3.

"That was in the back of our minds and we didn't want to let it slip (this time)", Mitchell said.

Glory coach Stange was happy with what his players had achieved this season and believed that ending up as the third best team in the country was correct and that the 2-1 result was fair.

"Sydney United were sharper, fresher, fitter than my team. We looked a little bit tired after a good start, after 10-15 minutes we lacked concentration", he said.

"We are a little tired now, a lot of games (and) each other week five hours in the aircraft takes its toll", he added.

Stange was very surprised and highly critical of the Deans' incident and commented that it shouldn't happen in a sporting country such as Australia.



# Australian Features



**Welcome, we are the Four Diegos. This week we talk to a man whose coloured boots, dynamic free-kicks and pugnacious approach has made him a star in the Ericsson Cup. Would you please welcome South Melbourne's instantly recognisable .... Goran Lozanovski**



**Diegos:** "You've had an interrupted season with injuries, suspension and a trial overseas. For the South Melbourne faithful out there, is Goran Lozanovski finally tuned, champing at the bit and ready to fire up for the Grand Final?"

**Lozanovski:** "Of course he is. All my injuries have settled down and I'm ready to go."

**Diegos:** "How did you treat your injuries in the lead up to the finals? Did you adopt the Four Diegos' 'Slap a bit of raw meat on it and she'll be right' approach?"

## LOZA PRACTICE MAKES LOZA PERFECT!



Goran Lozanovski ... the Ericsson Cup's free-kick specialist is hopeful of a start this Sunday for South in the Grand Final.

**Lozanovski:** "No raw meat for me. I thought I'd go the more conventional approach. I had sessions of physio twice a day and didn't extend myself too much at training and I got through a pretty tough period OK."

**Diegos:** "South has had a couple of weeks' break since the end of the regular season, and last week off. Coach Angie Postecoglou has been publicly concerned about whether the boys are switched on

for the back-to-back task. Has he worked the team hard in the lead up to the finals or has it been a case of sipping Ouzo cocktails by the pool?"

**Lozanovski:** "Earlier on our preparation training was pretty laid back but as we got closer to the big games it has become more intense. The boys are fired up and know fully what the task is ahead. We've been there and done that before so I'm pretty sure the boys won't be relaxed at all."

**Diegos:** "We heard a rumour that Angie called on the services of legendary AFL premiership coach, Allan Jeans, prior to the finals to put a snap in the boys' shorts?"

**Lozanovski:** "He did. It was quite inspiring to be honest. I've never been addressed by an AFL coach before. I must admit, by the end of it, I had goose bumps all over my body."

**Diegos:** "Did he make a Freudian slip and call it 'Wogball' at any stage?"

**Lozanovski:** "No. He mainly talked about the similarities in mental preparation between both codes. I can assure you no mention was made of 'Wogball'."

**Diegos:** "You departed mid-season for a trial in Germany with Arminia Bielefeld. It was a whirlwind trip — a few set pieces at Arminia, a couple of beers at the Oktoberfest and then back home. How did it go?"

**Lozanovski:** "It was fantastic. It was the first trial that I've been on and it was a great experience. People keep on asking me and I keep telling them that it is a different world out there. People don't realise it until they go out and experience it. I had about five sessions and quickly picked up that the intensity is much greater than it is here."

"Over there it's their life and they don't take anything for granted."

**Diegos:** "The Diegos affectionately call you the 'Amelda Marcos' of the Ericsson Cup because of your wide range of coloured boots. Does the opposition regard you as a Nancy-Boy or a fashion trendsetter? And what determines what colour boots you wear?"

**Lozanovski:** "This year I've pretty much stuck with the black. Every now and again I'll bring out the white. At the moment I'm favoring the white boots I suppose. There may be something special for the Grand Final though."

**Diegos:** "You, Perth Glory's Con Boutsianis and John Markovski are regarded as the foremost free

kick specialists of the league. What determines which curling, swirling, dipping scud missile you're going to unleash from your repertoire?"

**Lozanovski:** "It depends on the situation and how far out I am. Last season when Con Boutsianis was here, I used to just watch and admire him when he was hitting his free kicks. 'Jonesy' (Markovski) was just the same. Just watching those guys hit a ball was incredible. This season I tried to step up to the next level and take a few myself and fortunately they've gone in."

**Diegos:** "When you take free kicks do the South Melbourne boys have a code system indicating that this next one is going to be a 'Number 33A with a Twist' for example?"

**Lozanovski:** "No it's all natural ability, a lot of hard work and practice. I've been around a few clubs and I haven't seen too many guys practicing free kicks. I train a lot before and after training. The more practice the better you get."

**Diegos:** "The Champions' of the Ericsson Cup will participate in the revamped FIFA World Club Championship. How has this affected the club? Is there a little more urgency in the lead up to the Grand Final as a result?"

**Lozanovski:** "To be honest

I'd don't think the guys have been thinking about that. Everyone is concentrating on this season and nothing more. We would like to get the 'Back to Back' crown first and come next season we can then think of playing Manchester United or Bayern Munich."

**Diegos:** "Thanks Loza. When you score a cracker from a free kick in the finals, the Diegos want you to run to the nearest ABC TV camera and scream 'That was for the Four Diegos!' a la Maradona on amphetamines. Adios amigos!"

**Lozanovski:** "Thanks Diegos. The first is dedicated to you. Look for me by the corner flag. Adios Amigos!"



**The Four Diegos' are radio celebrities and soccer scribes on Melbourne's Stereo 97.4FM. Saturday 10am-12midday.**

**E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com.**



# SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MARIN CANBERRA

## BLACK TO INSPIRE THE GREEN AND GOLD

**S**outh Australian midfielder Sharon Black is somewhat philosophical about the forthcoming World Cup. At age 28, she is by far the oldest of the World Cup debutantes and excited at the prospect of taking part in the big event.

Black first wore the green and gold back in 1991 on the Tour of New Zealand but did not play again for her country until the 1996 Tri-Series, again in New Zealand. The five year gap in between obviously included the whole 1995 World Cup campaign, for which Black was not in contention.

"The commitment wasn't really there, I suppose," she says of herself during that lost time. "Then the inception of the ITC program lifted my motivation and there was much more structure to the national scene."

These days, the 1997/98 Julie Dolan Medal winner is much more focused on her football career, taking nothing for granted.

The January arrival of young talent Kelly Golebiowski at the AIS suddenly threw a new challenge in Black's path, the two vying for the left midfield spot. "I think when new players come in, they all want to impress, and the existing players want to impress — everyone just lifts the standard."

Beset by injuries over recent weeks, her selection prospects were put in jeopardy, but Black refused to let the dream fade away.

"I try not to put pressure on myself, and knowing I was injured, I just wanted to concentrate on getting

back. If you add that sort of pressure, you only take the focus away from that.

I just wanted to do the work, get myself back on the training pitch, and train hard. Then if you don't make it, then that's out of your control.

The things you can't control, I try not to think about them."

She describes her selection as 'a dream come true' and is determined to make the most of the opportunity. "I was pretty excited," she says of finding out of her selection. "But it didn't really all sink in until later. It took a few days to think what it really meant, to know what it means to be going to a World Cup.

So I got happier about it all as the days went on. It's a lot of hard work paid off, and just personally, it's something I've really set my mind to."

"I think my main goal when I get on is to contribute to the team. My focus is for the team doing well — I really want everyone to do well as a whole. And individually I'd love to score a goal, and play as much time

as possible."

Having heard about the relative infancy of the 1995 campaign, Black can better judge the extent of preparation the current team has enjoyed this time around.

The combined experience and new professionalism all points to a much better performance on the park in USA '99.



Sharon Black ... excited at the prospect of taking part in the World Cup.

"By all accounts, this one will be quite different. Teamwise, our build-up, the lead-up games, the crowds — our preparation is much better. And the experience of those who've been before will help us prepare much better than the opportunities they had back then."

Despite this being her first World Cup, Black is not in the least worried about being overwhelmed by the occasion. She says she will be nervous for what will be an event different to anything else seen before, and can't wait to immerse herself in the whole atmosphere of the show the Americans are about to put on.

"I think all the hype will be great. I want to lap it up, all the excitement at the start. Then when the games start, switch into game mode. I think it's important to get involved in all the excitement to help us get fired up. I think it'll be magic."

"We've got a fantastic opportunity to make it through to the second round, and anything can happen then. It's just how the team plays on the day."

How the team plays on the day is the very key. There are no second chances in the World Cup. But Black feels the team has matured from recent experiences and the stage is now set. "Going to the Algarve Cup and not starting off so well, in hindsight was the best thing for us."

The team now realises at the World Cup we've got to be switched on from the very first minute of the first game until the last minute of the last game."

There is a totally professional approach to this campaign. I don't believe it will be a lack of preparation or professionalism that will let us down."

## DARBY'S PROFESSIONALISM KEY TO AUSSIE HOPES

**M**atildas defender Anissa Tann-Darby felt she had a point to prove in working towards a second World Cup and now can't wait to get her teeth into the action.

Tann-Darby was one of four Aussies to play every minute of the three group matches back in Sweden '95, yet she was omitted from the National Squad later that same year. She is grateful to be on her way now to the US.

"Everyone gets really stressed out, but there's nothing you can do but perform to your best," she said of the period leading up to the recent team announcement.

"The battle for positions is so much harder now with the program.

I don't really get stressed or worried, but once I was selected, it was like 'Phew'. At least I've been selected, and hoping I can start."

Australia's most-capped player with 67 internationals to her name still more than mixes it in the physical stakes with her teammates.

But this year, she has perhaps felt the competition closing in on her, particularly with the arrival of several new players on the scene. But the 31-year-old has never shirked from hard work, and the challenge helped to motivate her more.

"It just goes to show, you can't rest on your laurels. There are players outside the twenty scholarships, even outside the 27, all vying for your spot.

So you're not safe even though you're inside the twenty. For me, it just makes me work even harder, knowing there's thirty or more out there."

"It was the fact that I didn't play in the final of the Australia Cup that was a real wake-up call for me, a kick in the pants. I had to readjust, focus on my weaknesses. It made me realise I couldn't rest on my laurels.

The 1995 Team was always going to find it

tough, and the important thing to take from it all was to learn from the experience.

Tann-Darby as much as anyone knows the huge differences between this campaign and the last, and shares a true feeling of big things to come in America.

"I learnt you have to have a professional attitude to get somewhere and succeed.

Now our outlook is so totally different. We're far more professional now, which is good."

"Our team is better, we can do better, and the atmosphere will be better. There was no



Tann-Darby ... believes Australia can win the World Cup.

atmosphere in Sweden because there weren't any crowds. But this one I'm really looking forward to, because I love playing in front of big crowds."

"We've got quite a number who've been there before, and our players are better prepared now with the program. We've played so many more games, and regardless of age and caps, we're far more experienced.

If all members of the team play well, we can at least get to the semis.

Once you're through to that stage, anything can happen. I really do believe we can do it."

## BARTLETT ITCHING FOR ACTION

**D**efender Traci Bartlett is in an unusual situation going into this World Cup. Although a member of the 1995 World Cup Team in Sweden, Bartlett is yet to actually play in a World Cup.

She was one of three players not to see a single minute on the park in the Matildas' first World Cup, but certainly more confident of seeing more action this time around.

The 27-year-old then missed National Squad selection later that year and must have wondered if that was to be her career's total World Cup experience — watching from the sidelines.

"It's an advantage I suppose that I have been to a World Cup, but it makes me more determined so this time I actually play. I can't really say I've got experience of playing in a World Cup, but I guess off the field I do."

"I didn't really think about it until near the end of the last game, when I realised was I ever going to get on," said Bartlett of her three matches on the bench. "It was pretty disappointing. Even though I was part of the team, I didn't really achieve my goal because I didn't play."

A revitalised approach to the game, a change of scenery, and a lot of hard work transformed her as a footballer, and since her comeback in 1997, she hasn't looked back.

"At the time of my 'forced retirement', I wasn't too motivated. It was disappointing but, in a way, I sort of expected it. Then I

completely changed, physically and in my approach and I was enjoying it more. I know I'm a much better player now than I was back then."

Now rewarded with a shot at another World Cup, Bartlett can get all excited all over again. But her burning desire to play in the US has been dented a little, suffering a slight knee strain last week in training, but hopeful of being ready in time for the first warm-up match.

"Obviously my target is to start, but that's a bit harder now I'm injured. I'd just like to play a fair chunk of the games. To play, to play well, and for the team to do well."

Bartlett has at least been involved in all the preparation for both campaigns and has good vibes about how the team will perform in USA '99.

"With the AIS, our preparation has been so much better. We've been together so long and we're a much closer unit, whereas in 1995 we came in two weeks before."

We're more professional is the main thing, and the team itself thinks it's got a good chance of getting through. Last time we wanted to, but we didn't honestly think we'd get past the first round."

I think if we play to our best, we can do really well. I think the top four realistically."



Traci Bartlett ... hopes that she will see some onfield time during the World Cup.

## THE BUSINESS BEGINS

The Matildas take off on their World Cup campaign this coming Monday (31 May), jetting off to Portland USA for the first of their four warm-up matches against the USA on 3 June.

The Brazilians are then followed by two games against Canada, before settling in Boston on 16 June for the real thing, kicking off on 20 June against Ghana.





# WHAT THEY ARE SAYING IN GRAND FINAL WEEK

with Aidan Ormond



## D'AVRAY: NEXT YEAR WILL BE OURS

An obviously downhearted Mitch D'Avray spoke after the Sydney United game. "I think while everyone is disappointed, on the day I think to be honest, we were beaten by a better side."

"They obviously have quality and depth upfront, I mean any team that can bring on Griffiths, and still have Day and Sterjovski shows that they are a powerful attacking force. They have a lot of pace in the team and a tough defence."

"South Melbourne, Sydney United and Perth Glory were obviously the best teams in the league."

"For me I think at times we have been inconsistent, at home we have been good, but away not always. We have to find a level of consistency."

He also hinted at the possibility of a number of new signings for next year in order to give the side that consistency he says they need.

"The players have done very well but to take us to the next level we need to beef up the squad."

"Our supporters have been one of the reasons why we have done well, I think it is good for the club and the game. Obviously there are going to be heightened expectations next year, and we have to be careful not to disappoint."

As for Sunday's Grand Final he felt it was too close to call.

**66** It was a strangely indifferent Perth Glory on Sunday against Sydney United at Marconi. Looking over at the season it was a sensational season but the bubble well and truly burst in this

crucial game," said Soccer Weekly's Perth writer Richard Kreider.

"In defence they did not look as tight as they normally are, the Craig Deans injury certainly did not help, which obviously destabilised the defence."

"The referee's decision to send Franken off was a strange one, he could have used some common sense instead of going by the book. Troy Halpin worked his heart out in midfield, but well done to Santalab who cut out the integral Trajkovski with his crosses."

"The pressure may have told on the Glory players, who knows, they did not have the spark in the eyes like they had recently."

"Sydney United had every right to win this game. They ended up on top of the league and Glory finished third, and if you look at how the finals panned out, it worked out almost exactly to plan, with six, then five, then four etc all being eliminated and the top two sides ending up in the Grand Final."

"I would rather look at the season as a whole. Stange has amplified the profile of the side in Perth immensely and Glory finished third."

"The media this week in the lead up was incredible. Midweek there was a massive story called 'Eagles v Glory'. Glory was in the media every day in a big way, with great reports. And if Plugger was not going for his record there would have been even more watching."

"A sensational season, the crowds have shown that the game is here to stay in here in WA. And who knows how big it can get when the purpose built stadium is built," concluded Kreider.



## GRIFFITHS: WE WANT REVENGE ON SOUTH

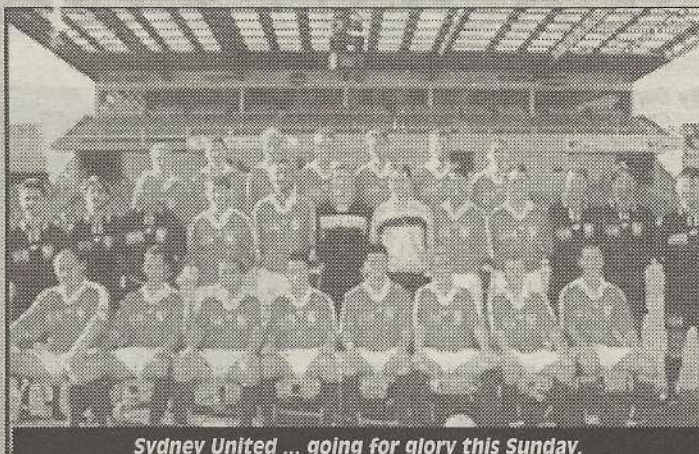
From a noisy dressing room after the win over Perth, Joel Griffiths said that United were hungrier and that the home crowd atmosphere certainly was an advantage.

"We were just so determined to take our chance here today so we can try to take revenge on South in the Grand Final this week. I was not surprised by Glory, they are always a solid team. I guess the only surprise was seeing John Markovski on the bench," he said in amongst the raucous celebrations.

"I saw the send-off and it would have been a goal, so all credit to Mark Shield for seeing it and doing the right thing."

With the Grand Final Griffiths sees it as just if his Pumas can win it. "Yeah, the team morale is at its highest it's been. Last time we played South we did not do well, but I think this time we are ready for them."

As for bonding sessions, Griffiths was impressed with his side's visit to a Japanese restaurant midweek (thankfully no-one fell off anything or ended up naked at



Sydney United ... going for glory this Sunday.



the local Police station!) and believes this week the side should stick to Asian food. "Perhaps Chinese this week!"

One thing for sure, the players will be going for glory this week for themselves and their inspirational coach David Mitchell.

And with Griffiths, Sterjovski and Griffiths, together with Coveny and Curcija at South, a free-scoring Final is on the cards.

If United win the Cup and Mitchell moves, expect a stampede of players out of Edensor Park. If Mitchell stays, then they should hold onto the abundance of talent at the club.

# MOST COMMENTATORS GOING FOR REIGNING CHAMPIONS

### MARCUS STERGIOPOULOS: AUCKLAND KINGS

#### TIP: SYDNEY UNITED

Why? The reason being they are more disciplined, organised and young and hungry to win a championship. South have a few prima donnas and when things don't go their way they tend to sulk, which will be an advantage to Sydney United. As a Melbourne boy I cannot stand South Melbourne, so I hope that Sydney United can do it and I believe they will.

### JOHN ECONOMOS: SOCCER WEEKLY WRITER

#### TIP: SYDNEY UNITED

Why? It's been six long years since the title landed in Sydney, and Sydney United's experienced coach David Mitchell is more than capable of rectifying this situation.

Only the left post denied victory to United the last time these two great sides met.

In tenacious skipper Kupresak, leading a defence of Vrkic, Plesa, Bennet and an industrious midfield of Ardone and Burns, plus game-breaker Danny Townsend, they should have the adequate character to bring the title to Sydney.



Mitchell has already blueprinted plans to restrict South's brilliant Paul Trimboli and to disconnect Lozanovski's deadly crosses. United for the final.

### GEORGE STAVROULAKIS: GREEK HERALD SPORTS WRITER

#### TIP: SOUTH MELBOURNE:

Why? The home advantage and experience will be very important, plus overall they have a better team. The midfield and attack is their strength.

### CRAIG WILSON: SOCCER WEEKLY WRITER

#### TIP: SOUTH MELBOURNE

Why? As a Sydneysider I would love to see a Sydney team like United win, and David Mitchell has done a wonderful job on limited resources, but, I have to say I think it will be South Melbourne.

They are very strong, canny and they have home advantage. My heart says Sydney United, my head says South Melbourne.

### MARK FOWLER: EDITOR SUPER SOCCER

#### TIP: SOUTH MELBOURNE

Why? They have the experience and the quality in the squad to win back-to-back titles.

### DONALD CAMPBELL AND

### MARGARET BOWDEN: COAST FM SOCCER AND SOCCER WEEKLY

#### DONALD'S TIP IS SOUTH MELBOURNE TO WIN 3-1

Why? They have the home ground advantage, will get huge support, and are an overall better team from the goalkeeper right through to the strikers. Paul Trimboli, John Anastasiadis and Vaughan Coveny have the strike power to win.

Margaret's tip is Sydney United 3-2 after extra time - 2-2 at the end of normal-time. Big David Mitchell is on a roll, and after United's performance against the Glory (who are my favourite team outside Adelaide), I think Nathan Day will score the winner. Remember, David Mitchell and Nathan Day are Adelaide boys!

### WAYNE KNIPE: BRISBANE STRIKERS PLAYER AND RECORDING ARTIST (LEFT)

#### TIP: SOUTH MELBOURNE

Why? It is always hard to play away, it will be tough to play down there for Sydney United. Only one or two goals will separate them, it will be a great game. Mitch has done a fantastic job though and the two best sides have made it to the Final. I am looking forward to this game and I wish both sides the best for the big occasion.



Marcus Stergiopoulos ... the new Auckland Kings signing is not a fan of South Melbourne.

### Richard Kreider: Soccer Weekly writer Tip: Sydney United

### Melissa Muscat: Soccer Weekly writer Tip: South Melbourne

### Soccer Spice: Soccer Weekly writer Tip: South Melbourne for a spicy victory.





# FINALS PREVIEW



## GAME OF THE SEASON LOOMS

By Dwyght Tuffnell who will cover the Grand Final

**S**ydney United stand in the way of South Melbourne's dream of back-to-back championships.

South, who only previously won championships after going to sleep for seven years go into this week's game at Olympic Park as slight favourites.

The home ground advantage in the championship decider is a telling one, though not one that can't be overcome as recent Grand Finals have shown when Adelaide City defeated Melbourne Knights at Olympic Park in 1994 and, when the Knights gained revenge winning at Hindmarsh Stadium the following year.

And if any team will make a mockery of the advantage of playing at home, it is Sydney United.

As the season has progressed, they have become harder and harder to write off.

Well publicised financial troubles have had the club in turmoil off the park.

On the park, the you would be forgiven for thinking that not the slightest thing was amiss with the Pumas.

Much of the credit has been rightly given to their coach, David Mitchell.

He's taken a squad tipped by a few pundits to finish with the likes of Canberra and Gippsland who now stand on the precipice of the most unlikely championship win in the NSL's history.

Every player in the United side does his part.

Experienced goalkeeper Mike Gibson has been in fantastic form and their defence, lead by the inspirational Velimir Kupresak, is a tough nut to crack.

Up front, Young Soccerroo combination Mile Sterjovski and Joel Griffiths have had an outstanding season although Griffiths has recently had to be content with a spot on the bench as Nathan Day has played well.

There is very little between the two sides.

Each recorded tight, 1-0 home wins during the season proper.

In the first leg of the Major Semi-Final, it took an unbelievable strike by United defender Richard Plesa to give his side a precious away goal to take



David Mitchell ... Sydney United's lucky day when he signed as coach.

after they were involved in a traffic accident.

South used this to spur them on to give Clarkson a Grand Final to look forward to, and duly ground out a goalless draw.

Lozanovski has been training strongly and all indications are that he will force his way back into the line-up.

Coach Ange Postecoglou is hopeful that Clarkson will play, but that will very much depend on the well-being of his children.

South's defence has been solid as a rock all year. Michael Petkovic has been in stunning touch, whilst Con Blatsis has been arguably the player of the finals series.

The Coveny-Curcija partnership has provided the bulk of South's goals this season, with the combination of the two unsettling the best defences in the league.

United have done remarkably well to get this far, but whether the fairytale can continue against a South Melbourne side packed with finals experience is another thing.

Only Bill Damianos, Tansel Baser and Con Boutsianis are gone from the side who won last season.

Skipper Paul Trimboli is after his third winners' medal whilst Fausto De Amicis will enter the record books if South win, he'll become the first player to have played in four Grand Final wins.

United on the other hand, may find the occasion too much for them.

## HISTORIC NIGHT AT NOU CAMP

Champions Cup Final preview by Soccer Weekly's Daryl Katz in Barcelona

**A**nd then there were two. The two finest teams in Europe, Manchester United and Bayern Munich, meet in Barcelona on Wednesday to decide the destiny of this season's Champions League.

Both crowned champions of their respective countries in recent weeks, these European heavyweights face each other for the third time this season.

Unlike their previous two encounters however, this time there will be no second chance.

Both sides overcame awesome opposition to reach the final.

Manchester United qualified for the knockout stages for the third season in succession by finishing second in their group, to Bayern Munich. They were unbeaten, following two entertaining 3-3 draws with Barcelona and two destructive victories over Brondby, in which they aggregated 11 goals.

United had never beaten an Italian side in a two-leg tie in Europe before the start of this season. They rectified that statistic after disposing of both Inter Milan and Juventus in classic performances.

They faced Inter and Ronaldo in the quarterfinals. After a comprehensive 2-0 victory at Old Trafford, inspired by two Dwight Yorke headers from crosses by the superb David Beckham, they ground out a 1-1 draw in Milan to take their place in the semifinals.

United's final obstacle in their path to the final was their old foe, Juventus. After conceding an away goal at Old Trafford in the first leg, United travelled to Turin knowing that they had to score to stay in the tournament.

When they found themselves 2-0 down before the half hour, the outlook seemed bleak and European failure loomed large. However, headed goals from Roy Keane and Yorke enabled them to claw their way back into the match and lead on the away goals rule.

Andy Cole scored late to wrap up a memorable victory and send United through to their first European Cup final since Wembley in 1968.

United have scored freely, both home and away, throughout their campaign, plundering a record 20 goals in the group stages alone. They have outstanding wide men in Beckham and Ryan Giggs, who have supplied sufficient cutting edge to compensate for sometimes unconvincing defending.

United have a few problems though. Alex Ferguson finds his first-choice midfield of Keane and Paul Scholes suspended after both picked up their second yellow cards in the semifinal second leg.

However, Ferguson is not short of options. Nicky Butt will deputise for Keane, and he will shift his midfield around to find a replacement for Scholes.

This is not a new situation for the manager, who coped with the absence of Keane in the 1997 quarterfinal, which ended in a 4-0 defeat of Porto, Ronny Johnsen performing the holding role in midfield.

Giggs or Beckham could fill a central midfield berth in an adventurous formation, with Jesper Blomqvist drafted into a wide position. Phil Neville could also come in as a more conservative and perhaps more likely option.

Key Dutch central defender Jaap Stam has been

struggling with an achilles injury, but seems certain to play if anywhere near fit.

Peter Schmeichel will captain the side as he attempts to end eight glorious years at Old Trafford on a high note.

Bayern qualified top of the 'group of death', which also contained, ironically, Barcelona. After a poor start in their first group match, losing to Brondby in Denmark, Bayern recovered well.

Trailing Manchester United 1-2 late in the Munich group game, Bayern were facing almost certain elimination. Instead, they managed to come from

behind, conjuring a late goal courtesy of an error by United goalkeeper Schmeichel to draw 2-2 and haul themselves back into the tournament.

Already dominating their domestic league, that result seemed to set them on their way in Europe.

They proceeded to complete a comprehensive double over Barcelona, all but eliminating the Spaniards from the tournament in a year when the final was due to be held in their own stadium.

After avenging their early defeat to Brondby, they recovered from a deficit at Old Trafford to draw once again with United, this time 1-1.

A favourable draw in the quarterfinals saw them sweep aside German rivals Kaiserslautern 6-0 on aggregate, and they moved on to meet the Ukrainian champions, Dynamo Kiev, in the semifinals.

They showed their resilience yet again, coming from behind to force a 3-3 away draw after trailing 2-0 and 3-1. The tie was secured in Munich courtesy of a superb strike by the enigmatic Mario Basler.

Midfielder Steffen Effenberg has been a revelation for Bayern this season.

Veteran Lothar Matthaus provides a cool head in a crisis, and up front the imposing Carsten Jancker is a test for any defence. The brilliant if inconsistent

Basler is also capable of turning a game in an instant.

Bayern also have their worries entering the match. They have lost Brazilian striker Giovane Elber to a knee injury for the remainder of the season.

French international fullback Bixente Lizarazu

has missed numerous games in recent weeks with a similar problem, but will hope to regain a starting berth in the final.

Incredibly, both teams enter the match seeking an unprecedented treble of domestic league and cup and Champions League.

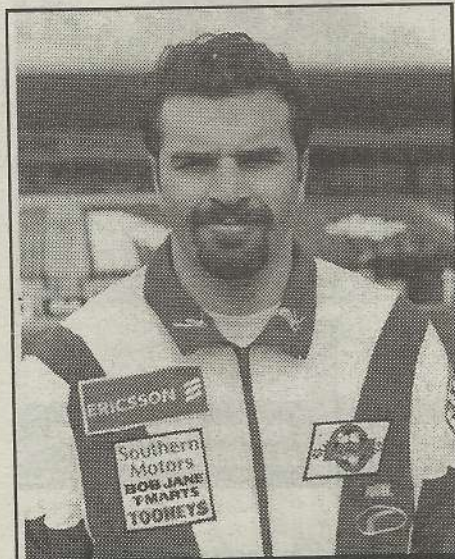
United have already claimed the league and the FA Cup, while Bayern play the German Cup final next month.

United will be determined to add this trophy to their other two in an attempt to be recognised as the greatest English team in history.

Bayern want this trophy to end a drought of 23 years since their last victory, under Franz Beckenbauer. Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld is eager to taste Champions League success for a second time, having guided Borussia Dortmund to the title in 1997.

Both sides have the winning habit, both are skilful, committed and hungry.

The Nou Camp stadium on May 26 will be no place for faint hearts when this clash of the titans gets underway.



Ange Postecoglou ... another big test in his fledgling coaching career.

back to Sydney with them.

South, though a little knocked off their stride by that Plesa goal, had won the first leg courtesy of their deadly strike duo, Michael Curcija and Vaughan Coveny.

In the return leg, South lost Goran Lozanovski with a calf strain and tenacious midfielder, David Clarkson, who was by his two daughters' bedsides



# National Youth League

Compiled by Roy Hay and proudly sponsored by Prestige Wedding and Function Centre,  
Argon Video Productions

## SOUTHERN DIVISION GRAND FINAL

Sunday 23 May 1999

Adelaide City .....1 Carlton .....0  
(Dusty McGregor)  
(Score at full time, 0-0, McGregor's goal was a golden goal in the second period of extra-time)

ADELAIDE CITY



Forthcoming match

## National Play-Off

Sunday 30 May 1999

Adelaide City v AIS

(Venue, time to be announced)

Adelaide City beat Carlton by a golden goal scored by Dusty McGregor in the second period of extra-time after the teams had been locked at nil-all at the end of normal time in the Inter-Divisional Play-off in Adelaide on Sunday.

Carlton had much of the play, but could not break through on the heavy pitch. For Carlton, Serdar Pir, Steve Martin and Marko Iacobaccia were the best on the day.

Adelaide City will now go on to meet the AIS in the National Play-off next week, possibly as the curtain raiser to the Ericsson Cup Grand Final at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday.



Serdar Pir was one of Carlton's best.

### League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	24	17	4	3	72	26	55
South Melbourne	24	14	3	7	44	25	45
VIS	24	11	6	7	47	33	39
Gippsland Falcons	24	10	4	10	43	34	34
Melbourne Knights	24	9	3	12	44	53	30
Bulleen Inter Kings	24	8	5	11	29	44	29
Albury Wodonga	24	1	3	20	20	84	6

(Games not played recorded as 0-0)

### LEADING SOUTHERN SCORERS

Andrew Mashoian	South Melb	17	Tony Ouliaris	Carlton	13
Deniz Ekici	Carlton	15	Angelo Motsiopoulos	VIS	10

## NORTHERN DIVISION GRAND FINAL

Sunday 23 May 1999

Sydney Olympic .....0 AIS .....0  
(After extra-time, AIS won 3-2 on penalty kicks)

Forthcoming match

Play-offs

## National Play-Off

Sunday 30 May 1999

Adelaide City v AIS

(Venue, time to be announced)

The AIS and Sydney Olympic could not be separated in normal and extra-time of the Northern Division Grand Final at Marconi Stadium on Sunday and the match had to be decided on penalties.

Olympic had the upper hand in the last few minutes of the game. Jim Bakis and Nick Carle came very close to scoring, but when these chances were missed it was down to the penalty shoot out. Jim Kourtis saved the first AIS kick.

Michael Turnbull, who had been outstanding in goal during the game for the AIS, then saved three penalty kicks to see his team through as Wayne Shroj, Ljubo Milicevic and finally Elias Dimourtzidis converted their kicks for the AIS.



Wayne Shroj ... AIS will look to him in the final.

### LEADING NORTHERN SCORERS

Mark Haggard	Marconi	24
Kevo Gulesserian	AIS	21
Simon Catanzaro	NSWIS	20

### League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIS	28	20	7	1	103	19	67
Sydney Olympic	28	20	4	4	89	30	64
Northern Spirit	28	20	2	6	68	24	62
Newcastle Breakers	28	18	5	5	62	29	59
Marconi Fairfield	28	17	5	6	78	26	56
NSWIS	28	17	3	8	69	33	54
Wollongong Wolves	28	17	2	9	85	35	53
QAS	28	15	2	11	72	44	47
Sydney United	28	12	4	12	59	48	40
Marconi Fairfield Colts	28	8	5	15	35	48	29
ACTAS	28	7	3	18	38	73	24
Northern Spirit Colts	28	4	3	21	23	102	15
Sydney Olympic Academy	28	3	5	20	26	99	14
Sydney United Colts	28	4	1	23	29	97	13
Wollongong Wolves Colts	28	1	3	24	15	142	6

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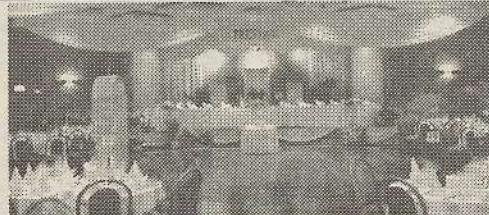
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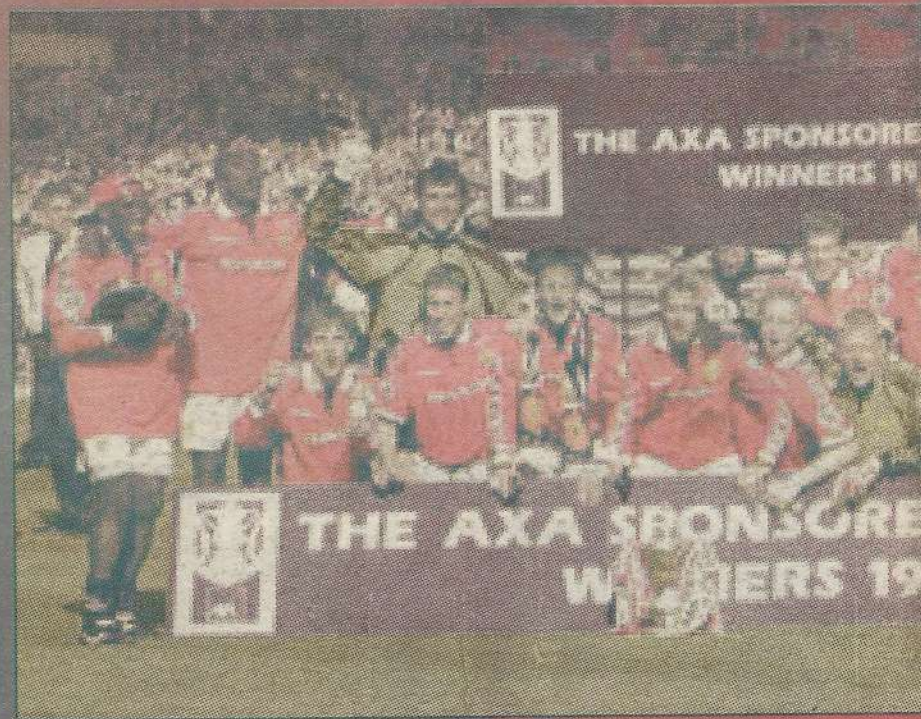


AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

# SOCCER WEEKLY



**1998/99  
PREMIER LEAGUE  
CHAMPIONS**



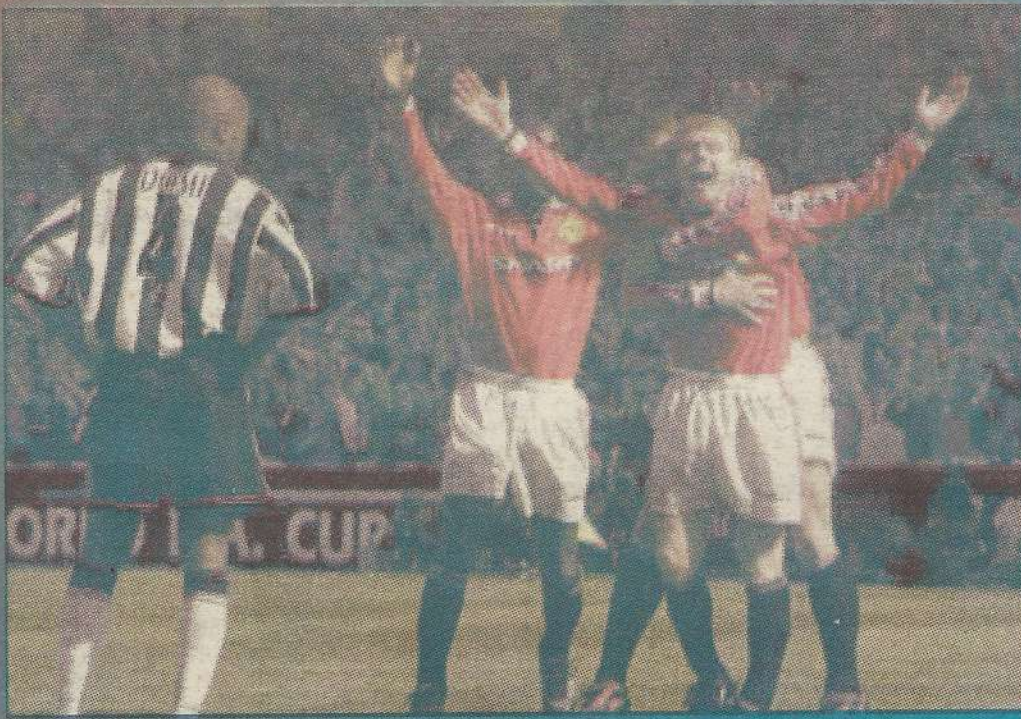
## CAN ANYONE STOP



# MANCHESTER UNITED



**1999  
F. A. CUP  
WINNERS**



## THE RED DEVILS?



# NSW SUPER LEAGUE

## SUPER LEAGUE

**FIRST GRADE:** Bonnyrigg White Eagles 5 (J Bruni 64/72m, J Mancino 71/92m, B Green 73m) bt Sutherland Sharks 1 (C Hobbs 44m), Bankstown City 2 (S Dimoski 20m, M Lozevski 75m) bt Macarthur Rams 1 (Own Goal 45m), Fairfield Bulls 1 (M Hoenselaars 15m Pen) drew Eastern Suburbs 1 (M Beldham 65m), Parramatta Eagles 5 (M Reveley 49m, G Bard 85m Pen, A Anderson 54/84m, T Haythornthwaite 32m) bt Canterbury Marrickville 0, Ryde City 2 (A Cetinay 44/72m, C Sharpley 25m) bt Central Coast 2 (C Smith 21m, P Preston 80m), Blacktown City 1 (J Angelucci 60m) bt Leichhardt Tigers 0.

**U/21:** Central Coast 2 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 bt Sutherland Sharks 1, Macarthur Rams 4 bt Bankstown City 2, Fairfield Bulls 5 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Parramatta Eagles 1 bt Canterbury Marrickville 0, Ryde City 0 drew Central Coast 0, Blacktown City 2 bt Leichhardt Tigers 1.

**U/18:** Central Coast 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 2, Sutherland Sharks 1 bt Bonnyrigg WE 0, Macarthur Rams 5 bt Bankstown City 2, Eastern Suburbs 2 bt Fairfield Bulls 0, Canterbury Marrickville 3 bt Parramatta Eagles 1, Central Coast 2 bt Ryde City 0, Blacktown City 1 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0.

## DIVISION ONE

**FIRST GRADE:** Dulwich Hill 3 (I De Jesus 27m P Cacciola 67m Z Momirovski 82m) bt Bathurst '75 (S Mutton 9m M Rook 47m), Hurstville City v3 (M Kladis 25m T Pontidas 36m G Kalageras 71m) bt Penrith Panthers 0, Manly Warringah 6 (D Harding 28/72m K Foster 65m D Barbalace 76m A Townsend 87/90m) bt AC United 0, Stanmore Hawks 1 (M Adams 9m) bt St George 0, Auburn United 3 (U Ogmen 68m, T Omac 88m, A Gordon 90m) bt AC United 1 (R Toomey 22m), Rockdale City Suns 2 (G Trposki 47m, S Najdoski 89m) bt Manly Warringah 1 (D Barbalace 27m), Illawarra Lions 2 (V Tasevski 55m, A Krstevski 60m) bt Moorebank Sports 1 (M Richards 50m).

**U/21:** Bathurst '75 2 bt Dulwich Hill 0, Hurstville City 2 bt Penrith Panthers 1, Stanmore Hawks 1 drew St George 1, Auburn United 5 bt AC United 4, Manly Warringah 2 bt Rockdale City Suns 0, Illawarra Lions 2 bt Moorebank Sports 0.

**U/18:** Dulwich Hill 3 bt Bathurst '75 2, Penrith Panthers 1 bt Hurstville City 0, Stanmore Hawks 4 bt St George 0, AC United 3 bt Auburn United 1, Manly Warringah 1 bt Rockdale City Suns 0, Moorebank Sports 4 bt Illawarra Lions 0.

## DIVISION TWO

**FIRST GRADE:** Sydney University 3 (D Gill 2m S Merrat 29m L McDougall 65m) bt Belmore Hercules 1 (T Aliseris 3m), Mt Druitt Town 2 (J Van Ward 42m P Graham 70m) bt Fraser Park 1, Arncliffe Scots 3 drew Mt Druitt 3, Hills United 0 drew Greystanes 0, Hurstville ZSC 6 (V Zoric 11/14/56/82m, A Buntic 47m, G Departo 69m) bt Sydney District 0, Greystanes 2 (S Cummings 55m, D Crittenden 65m) bt University of NSW 0, Hajduk Wanderers 1 (J Ellul 44m) drew Arncliffe Scots 1 (S Josevski 80m), Hills United 2 (F Finianos 9m, A Mathieson 32m) drew Mt Pritchard 2 (G Baldock 17/58m).

**U/21:** Sydney University 3 bt Belmore Hercules 1, Fraser Park 2 bt Mt Druitt Town 1, Mt Druitt 18 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Hills United 1 drew Greystanes 1, Hurstville ZSC 2 bt Sydney District 0, Greystanes 1 bt University of NSW 0, Hajduk Wanderers 8 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Mt Pritchard 4 bt Hills United 2.

**U/18:** Belmore Hercules 2 bt Sydney University 1, Mt Druitt Town 3 bt Fraser Park 2, Belmore Hercules 7 bt Arncliffe Scots 0, Sydney University 5 bt Sydney District 2, Hurstville ZSC 2 drew Sydney District 2, Greystanes 0 drew University of NSW 0, Hajduk Wanderers 5 bt Arncliffe Scots 1, Hills United 1 drew Mt Pritchard 1.

## DIVISION THREE

**FIRST GRADE:** White City 5 bt Maroubra United 0, Camden Tigers 0 drew Hakoah 0, Colo Colo 4 bt Parramatta City 2, Transandinos v Prospect United P/P, The Wanderers 3 drew Liverpool City 3, Western Sydney Lions 3 bt Gladesville United 0.

**SECOND GRADE:** Maroubra United 4 bt White City 2, Camden Tigers 0 drew Hakoah 0, Colo Colo 3 bt Parramatta City 1, Transandinos 3 bt Prospect United 1, The Wanderers 3 drew Liverpool City 3, Western Sydney Lions 4 bt Gladesville United 0.

## DIVISION FOUR

**FIRST GRADE:** Balmain 2 drew United Eagles 2, CSI ng Wolves 1 drew Manly Warringah 1, Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 2 bt Bankstown United 1, St George Association 2 bt Bathurst City 0.

## SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

**G/13:** Wollongong Wolves 3 bt Marconi Fairfield 0, Eastern Suburbs 1 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0, Gladesville Hornsby 3 bt Marconi Fairfield 1, Sutherland Sharks 1 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Manly Warringah 1 bt Sydney United 0 0, Blacktown City 4 bt Macarthur Rams 1, Sydney Olympic 3 bt Southern Districts 1, Newcastle Breakers 1 drew Southern Branch 1, Wollongong

Wolves 5 bt Central Coast 1, Wollongong Wolves 3 bt Leichhardt Tigers 1, Gladesville Hornsby 1 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Sydney United 1 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Macarthur Rams 2 bt Manly Warringah 1, Sydney Olympic 2 bt Newcastle Breakers 0, Central Coast 1 drew Southern Branch 1.

**G/14:** Marconi Fairfield 1 bt Wollongong Wolves 0, Leichhardt Tigers 4 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Gladesville Hornsby 2 bt Marconi Fairfield 0, Sutherland Sharks 1 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Sydney United 4 bt Manly Warringah 0, Blacktown City 2 bt Macarthur Rams 1, Sydney Olympic 5 bt Southern Districts 1, Southern Branch 2 bt Newcastle Breakers 1, Wollongong Wolves 1 bt Central Coast 0, Leichhardt Tigers 5 bt Wollongong Wolves 2, Gladesville Hornsby 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 2, Sydney United 0 drew Sutherland Sharks 0, Manly Warringah 1 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Newcastle Breakers 3 bt Sydney Olympic 2, Southern Branch 1 bt Central Coast 0.

**G/15:** Marconi Fairfield 3 bt Wollongong Wolves 0, Leichhardt Tigers 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Marconi Fairfield 1 drew Gladesville Hornsby 1, Sutherland Sharks 3 bt Parramatta Eagles 2, Sydney United 1 bt Manly Warringah 0, Macarthur Rams 3 bt Blacktown City 2, Southern Districts 5 bt Sydney Olympic 2, Newcastle Breakers 3 bt Southern Branch 0, Central Coast 2 drew Wollongong Wolves 2, Wollongong Wolves 4 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0, Gladesville Hornsby 5 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Sydney United 1 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Macarthur Rams 1 bt Manly Warringah 0, Newcastle Breakers 5 bt Sydney Olympic 1, Central Coast 2 bt Southern Branch 0.

**G/16:** Wollongong Wolves 3 bt Marconi Fairfield 0, Leichhardt Tigers 4 bt Eastern Suburbs 3, Marconi Fairfield 1 drew Gladesville Hornsby 1, Parramatta Eagles 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Sydney United 2 bt Manly Warringah 1, Blacktown City 3 drew Macarthur Rams 3, Sydney Olympic 3 bt Southern Districts 2, Newcastle Breakers 3 bt Southern Branch 0, Wollongong Wolves 1 bt Central Coast 0, Leichhardt Tigers 2 bt Wollongong Wolves 1, Gladesville Hornsby 5 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Sydney United 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 2, Macarthur Rams 2 bt Manly Warringah 1, Newcastle Breakers 1 drew Sydney Olympic 1, Central Coast 3 bt Southern Branch 1.

## YOUTH SUPER LEAGUE

### ROUND 14

### UNDER 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Blacktown City Demons	14	13	1	0	63	5	58	40
Wollongong Wolves	14	10	3	1	38	13	25	33
Newcastle Breakers	12	9	1	2	26	10	16	28
Parramatta Eagles	12	7	2	3	27	11	16	23
Southern Districts	14	7	2	5	25	22	3	23
Sydney Olympic	13	7	1	5	39	23	16	22
Gladesville Hornsby Assoc	13	6	4	3	17	18	-1	22
Leichhardt Tigers	13	6	3	4	26	20	6	21
Marconi Fairfield	14	5	3	6	23	24	-1	18
Sutherland Sharks	14	4	5	5	16	22	-6	17
Southern Branch	14	4	3	7	16	30	-14	15
Macarthur Rams	14	2	6	6	9	19	-10	12
Manly Warringah Dolphins	13	2	2	9	10	33	-23	8
Eastern Suburbs	13	1	3	9	9	37	-28	6
Sydney United	13	1	2	10	9	29	-20	5
Central Coast	12	1	1	10	7	44	-37	4

### UNDER 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Southern Districts	14	9	3	2	14	15	19	30
Wollongong Wolves	14	10	0	4	31	19	12	30
Sydney Olympic	13	9	1	3	44	11	33	28
Sydney United	13	8	3	2	30	15	15	27
Sutherland Sharks	14	8	2	4	21	16	5	26
Marconi Fairfield	14	8	1	5	14	22	12	25
Blacktown City Demons	14	8	1	5	20	19	1	25
Gladesville Hornsby Assoc	13	7	2	4	34	15	19	23
Newcastle Breakers	12	7	0	5	22	18	4	21
Leichhardt Tigers	13	6	0	7	20	15	5	18
Parramatta Eagles	12	5	1	6	19	21	-2	16
Macarthur Rams	14	4	2	8	12	18	-6	14
Southern Branch	14	4	1	9	14	36	-22	13
Eastern Suburbs	13	1	2	10	12	50	-38	5
Manly Warringah Dolphins	13	1	1	11	9	31	-22	4
Central Coast	12	1	0	11	8	43	-35	1

### UNDER 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Blacktown City Demons	14	12	0	2	19	10	29	36
Marconi Fairfield	14	10	3	1	34	9	25	33
Southern Districts	14	10	1	3	16	13	23	31
Gladesville Hornsby Assoc	13	9	3	1	38	7	31	30
Sutherland Sharks	14	7	4	3	31	17	14	25
Wollongong Wolves	14	6	5	3	21	17	4	23
Sydney United	13	5	4	4	18	16	2	19
Newcastle Breakers	12	5	2	5	26	16	10	17
Macarthur Rams	14	5	2	7	20	28	-8	17
Sydney Olympic	13	5	1	7	28	27	1	16
Leichhardt Tigers	13	5	1	7	25	25	0	16
Central Coast	12	3	3	6	11	30	-19	12
Manly Warringah Dolphins	13	3	1	9	13	33	-20	10
Parramatta Eagles	12	1	4	7	12	24	-12	7
Eastern Suburbs	13	2	1	10	9	47	-38	7
Southern Branch	14	0	1	13	6	48	-42	1

## NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

## SUPER LEAGUE



ROUND

18

Sunday 30th May

Blacktown City Demons v Ryde City Gunners

Gabbie Stadium, 3:00pm

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Central Coast

Serbian Centre, 3:00pm

Sutherland Sharks v Bankstown City Lions

Seymour Shaw Field, 3:00pm

Eastern Suburbs v Parramatta Eagles

Wentwork Park, 3:00pm

Leichhardt Tigers v Canterbury Marrickville

Lambert Park, 3:00pm

Tuesday 1st June

Central Coast v Sutherland Sharks

Pluim Park, 7:30pm (rd 13 re-arranged game)

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## SUPER LEAGUE ROUND-UP

The top two both won again in Super League round 17 action. Leaders Blacktown City Demons had a tough game against the improving Leichhardt Tigers, but came away with a 1-0 away victory courtesy of a Jon Angelucci goal.

The Tigers had favourite son John Bounavoglia back at the club after playing for the Newcastle Breakers, but he was unable to inspire his team to grab an equaliser.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles keep on winning as well, although for an hour they were looking at the shock result of the season in Super League as lowly Sutherland Sharks led through Craig Hobbs' 44th minute strike. In the end though Bonnyrigg ran out 5-1 winners, new signing Joe Bruni and Javier Mancino grabbing two each and Ben Green one.

Macarthur Rams remain in third but they appear to be struggling. Their latest defeat came at the hands of Bankstown City Lions, who defeated the Rams 2-1 at Jensen Park. The Lions scored through Dimoski and Mendo Lozevski, while the Rams only goal was an own goal.

The Tigers are in fourth and Bankstown move into fifth, so Fairfield dropped down to sixth after being surprisingly held at home by bottom club Eastern Suburbs.

The Bulls missed a host of chances and had only a 15th minute penalty to Mark Hoenselaars to show for their efforts. Mark Beldham, who scored his second goal in two games to make it a final score of 1-1, dashed any hopes of that being enough.

Canterbury Marrickville have had a shocking seven days, and after losing 7-0 last week to Blacktown they went down 5-0 this week to Parramatta Eagles. The Eagles home record is superb, and among their goals were a brace for young striker Adam Anderson, who has now scored five since being promoted to the first grade.

The days other game saw Ryde City claim its second win in two games and more clear of the bottom three, after defeating the Central Coast 3-2. Aydin Cetinay was the hero for the Gunners, netting two of his teams three goals.

In First Division the top two clubs were both beaten, Manly Warringah surrendering their unbeaten record at Rockdale where the Suns grabbed a last minute winner from Spase Najdoski after Goece Trposki had cancelled out an early headed goal from Danny Barbalace.

St George meanwhile lost valuable ground when a hungrier Stanmore Hawks beat them 1-0 at Arlington Oval, a tap in by Malcolm Adams in the 9th minute being the difference between the sides at the finish.

AC United lost 3-1 at Auburn, but they had led from a Rod Toomey goal only for Auburn to score twice in stoppage time, the first from the spot after the AC keeper had been sent off, as the scores had been level to that point.

Illawarra Lions and Moorebank had a tight contest at Kembla Grange, the home side prevailing 2-1.

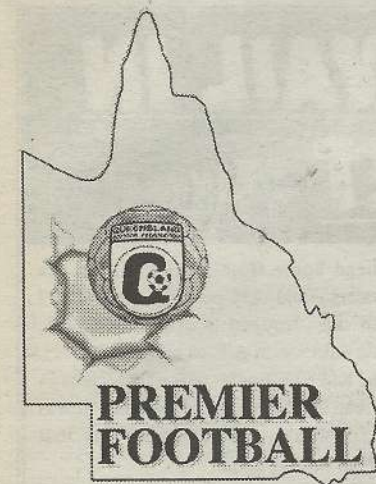


# QUEENSLAND

## ROVERS RISE AS LIONS LOSE OUT

**R**ochedale Rovers took maximum advantage of a Brisbane Lions slip up to move back to the top of the Queensland premier league with a 2-1 win against an injury depleted Ipswich Knights at Eric Evans Reserve on Sunday.

Rochedale started the match two points off the pace in second place behind Brisbane Lions and just one point ahead of third placed Ipswich Knights who needed a win to bury the memory of a shock 4-nil hiding the previous game from the Gold Coast.



Rochedale's task was made easier before kick-off with the surprise exclusions of two of the Knights star players in former State striker Peter Vogler and midfielder Brenley Jefferd.

With two vital cogs missing, Ipswich lacked cohesion and struggled against Rochedale who showed far more commitment and enthusiasm than the homeside.

Rochedale were never in doubt of losing the points after midfielders Michael Legg and Matt Olley gave the visitors a 2-nil half time buffer.

The only retaliation from Ipswich came in the final ten minutes when midfielder Peter McKendrick headed home past Rochedale keeper Graham Ross who earlier had pulled off one or two fine saves to keep Ipswich at bay.

Brisbane Lions had a chance to extend their lead at the top of the table against Bundaberg with their two closest competitors, Ipswich and Rochedale matched up against each other, but the opportunity went begging.

Brisbane Lions missed the experience of veteran defender Steve Jackson at the back and paid dearly with a poor defensive display.

Lions found themselves in deep trouble after only 10 minutes when they trailed 2-nil following two early strikes by Brisbane Strikers forward Wayne Knipe and Danny Cummins.

Knipe opened with a 4th minute goal heading unchallenged from close range while Cummins raced onto a defence splitting pace before tucking his shot under keeper Rob Farrow.

Lions fought back after the early setback when striker Robbie Laslo tapped in from close range after finishing off a cross from Warren Allen on the left.

However, their fight back was shortlived when Knipe bagged his second on the half hour to give the visitors a shock 3-1 lead at the break.

Although the scoreline was unchanged after the break, Bundaberg could have extended their lead had Cummins not missed a penalty after he was brought down by keeper Farrow in the box.

Defeats to two teams in the top three, Brisbane Lions and Ipswich Knights, enabled Brisbane City to again pressure the leaders following their 4-nil thumping over Mt Gravatt.

Brisbane City now move back into third place after starting the round in fifth place.

Brisbane City led 1-nil at half-time after striker Warren Cooley struck a 25 metre shot to put the home side up 1-nil after only eight minutes.

Yet another former Brisbane Striker's player, Mark Battistin, finished off a perfect pass from midfielder Damien Waugh to extend the home side's lead to 2-nil in the 60th minute.

Striker Alan Cameron, one of City's best players along with defender

Damon Voss, added his side's third goal after a superb solo run before tucking his shot under Mt Gravatt keeper Mark Bland.

Midfielder Wayne Strange, who also had a fine game, did the early spade work before laying off a pass for Robbie Kidd in the final three minutes to slot home for Brisbane City's fourth.

City's advancement into the top four came at the expense of Taringa Rovers who also slipped up with a 1-all draw in the tough away trip to Toowoomba.

Shaun Molenda continued his good recent form notching in Taringa's solitary goal while Toowoomba's Colin Hackwood scored for the homeside.

In the only other match scheduled heavy rain forced the postponement of Gold Coast's clash with Wynnum.



Stefanutto ... contracted to the Strikers till the year 2000.

**W**ith a surname like Stefanutto, you would be forgiven for thinking of another import player but Shane was born and bred in far north Queensland.

Father Frank is from Italy but that is where the overseas connection stops. It was in Cairns on January 12, 1980 that Shane Stefanutto made his entrance into the world and just five years later when his sister Nicole was born, Stefanutto was playing football for local club Atherton where he stayed until the age of 11.

After Atherton club, Stefanutto spent two seasons with Cairns club Saints and then Edge Hill. It was here that he was selected in the FNQ representative sides from the U12's through to the U15's.

On advice from a family friend, Andrew Bettell, who was at the time the Regional Director of Coaching at the Gold Coast, the family made a huge sacrifice to further the chances for the budding footballer.

So it was in 1996 that the family moved south and Stefanutto signed with the Southport Warriors under coach Ken Lindsay. He was again drafted for representative duties, but this time for the SEQ U16's.

Queensland Academy of Sport coach Greg Brown spotted the speedy flanker at the state titles and Stefanutto took up the scholarship that was offered by Brown.

For the next two and a half seasons, the youngster continued his passion to the fullest by playing not only for the QAS in the national youth league, but in the off season, would play for local clubs like Beenleigh and Gold Coast City.

However, things changed a little and in December 1998, Stefanutto had the opportunity to play national league when Brisbane Strikers coach John Kosmina called on his services.

"It was really good, it was different to anything I had ever played before," Stefanutto said.

"You are playing at a more intense pace and against quality opposition."

For any young soccer player, it is the pinnacle of regular competition in Australia.

From that first game against South Melbourne, he stayed on with the Strikers for the remainder of the season. Good performances resulted in Stefanutto being contracted to the Strikers for the upcoming 1999/2000 Ericsson Cup season.

Now that the national league for the Strikers has finished, Stefanutto returned to Gold Coast City to continue playing in the Premier League under coach Ken Lindsay.

City came out and hammered Rochedale Rovers 4-0 a fortnight ago when Rochedale were sitting on top of the competition ladder. The signing of ex Scottish professional Peter Dwyer, QAS player Shane Smeltzer and the return of Peter Grierson from injury has turned things around for the Coast side.

"Dwyer has made a big difference and with the others, it has made our side much more competitive.

"We should have no trouble in making the top four," Stefanutto said.

Apart from his football, a game of golf is a weekly must with the course at Canungra in the Tamborine mountains his favourite setting. A spot of camping with girlfriend Sara George is also a must but this does not happen as often as he or Sara would like.

With a desire to play for Australia and overseas if the opportunity arises, Stefanutto is more focused on the present and that is Gold Coast City making the top four and, next season with the Brisbane Strikers.

### ROUND 14

29-05	Mt Gravatt	v	Toowoomba Utd	7.00pm
29-05	Rochedale Rov	v	Brisbane City	7.00pm
29-05	B'berg Waves	v	Gold Coast	7.00pm
30-05	Wynnum	v	Ipswich Knights	2.45pm
30-05	Taringa Rovers	v	Brisbane Lions	2.45pm

## QUEENSLAND TABLES

### XXXX LEAGUE RESULTS

Toowoomba Utd	.....1	Taringa	.....1
Brisbane City	.....4	Mt Gravatt	.....0
Brisbane Lions	.....1	Bundaberg Waves	.....3
Ipswich Knights	.....1	Rochedale Rovers	.....2

Gold Coast City v Wynnum (washed out)

### XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
<b>Rochedale Rov</b>	14	9	0	5	33	23	10	27
Brisbane Lions	14	8	2	4	34	24	10	26
Brisbane City	14	7	3	4	26	17	9	24
IPSW Knights	14	7	2	5	22	18	4	23
Taringa Rovers	14	6	4	4	22	14	8	22
Gold Coast	13	4	7	2	24	20	4	19
B'berg Waves	14	5	3	6	22	22	0	18
Wynnum	13	4	2	7	20	27	-7	14
Mt Gravatt	14	3	3	8	20	36	-16	12
Toowoomba Utd	14	1	4	9	10	32	-22	7

### ROUND 14 SCORES

Toowoomba Utd	.....1	Taringa Rovers	.....1
Brisbane City	.....4	Mt Gravatt	.....0

Brisbane Lions	.....1	B'berg Waves	.....3
Gold Coast	.....washed out	Wynnum	.....0
IPSW Knights	.....1	Rochedale Rov	.....2

### DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
<b>Rocklea Utd</b>	13	11	1	1	48	15	33	34
Capalaba	13	9	0	4	27	15	12	27
Souths Utd	12	6	3	3	26	15	11	21
Slacks Creek	12	5	3	4	27	29	-2	18
Inala City	12	5	1	6	21	31	-10	16
Olympic Utd	12	5	0	7	23	25	-2	15
Beenleigh	11	3	2	6	20	27	-7	11
Redlands Utd	12	2	3	7	14	32	-18	9
Acacia Ridge	13	1	3	9	15	32	-17	6

### ROUND 14 SCORES

Slacks Creek	.....3	Acacia Ridge	.....2
Capalaba	.....3	Redlands Utd	.....1
Bye	.....0	Inala City	.....0
Rocklea Utd	.....3	Acacia Ridge	.....0
Souths Utd	.....2	Olympic Utd	.....1

Beenleigh v Slacks Creek - washed out  
Inala City - Bye

### DIVISION ONE NORTH

North Star	12	8	1	3	35	19	16	25
Eastern Subs	12	7	4	1	22	13	9	25
Pine Rivers UTD	12	7	2	3	23	12	11	23
Uni of Qld	13	6	1	6	23	25	-2	19
Albany Creek	11	5	3	3	22	20	2	18
Newmarket	11	5	2	4	19	15	4	17
The Gap	12	3	1	8	22	35	-13	9
Mitchelton	13	1	3	9	13	27	-14	6

### Rounds 14 Scores

Uni of Qld	.....3	Mitchelton	.....1
North Star	.....2	Eastern Subs	.....4

The Gap v Albany Creek - washed out  
Newmarket v Grange Thistle - washed out  
Pine Rivers Utd - Bye



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# PREMIER LEAGUE



## EAGLES FALL DEEPER INTO RELEGATION TROUBLE

### SPRINGVALE W.E. 0 BULLEEN 2

By Milan Ninovic

Springvale White Eagles plunged deeper into relegation trouble on Sunday after losing 2-0 at home to Bulleen Inter Kings.

The White Eagles were made to pay for a catalogue of missed chances in the second half as the Kings skipped away to their third consecutive victory following a lean patch.

Bulleen were in front nine minutes before half time when an unmarked Agim Sherifovski headed in a Vlad Babic cross.

Springvale then wasted three clear-cut opportunities.

Sasa Vodilovski couldn't find the target in the 54th minute after being set up by Dejan Rikanovic.

Zlatko Mihajlovic then shot wide from close range before Vodilovski again, headed wide after once more being teed up by Rikanovic.

Former White Eagle, Danny Gnjjidic, then made his old side regret their carelessness in front of goal by notching the Kings second in the 76th minute.

Babic was once again the provider, sending Gnjjidic a low cross to the front post where he tucked it in from three metres.

Springvale welcomed back Rade Culibrk from Australian under-17 duty, but still are without key players Mariano Calomino, Sinisa Cohadzic, Milan Mihajlovic and Billy Armour.

**White Eagles:** Kalamaris, Mlinar, Oter, Poutakidis, Culibrk, Styczen, Nikolic, Rikanovic, Mandic, Z.Mihajlovic, Vodilovski (O'Brian).

**Kings:** Keogh, Stojcevski, Everetts (Gnjjidic), Della Rocca, Mazzini, Babic (Thomas), Tartaglia, Waddell (Valentic), Sherifovski, Grbac, Rusmir.

**Referee:** Cain Naumcevski

**Votes:** 3- Mazzini (BK), 2- Babic (BK), 1- Styczen (SWE)

### ALTONA MAGIC 0 PRESTON 1

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Preston Lions moved into outright second on the Premier League table on Sunday, defeating Altona Magic 1-0 in terrible conditions at Paisley Park.

Gale-force winds and driving rain wasn't much fun for the 1500 strong crowd and never allowed the game to be anything but scrappy.

Tony Ujgunovski's goal with nine minutes remaining settled the game giving Preston a deserved victory.

They had the better of the first half, Ivan Filipovski was stopped twice in the 4th minute by Magic 'keeper Darren McGrath and then defender Simon Micevski.

The first five minutes were the most lively of the game with Altona's Zoran Todorovski hitting the bar with a header

and Pece Stojcevski testing McGrath who did well to save and then clear from an on-rushing Ujgunovski.

Goal scoring chances then completely dried up until the 40th minute when John Sapazovski, from the edge of the six yard box, blasted a shot over the bar after Zoran Petrevski had knocked the ball down to him.

McGrath was required again by Altona in the 51st

minute to block the shot of Ujgunovski who was clean through after a superb pass from Filipovski.

Preston's 'keeper, Lupce Acevski, was then in the action two minutes later when he parried a shot from Sapazovski onto Petrevski. The deflection off Petrevski guided the ball towards the net, but Sasho Slaveski was on hand to clear the danger.

After a couple of prior opportunities, Ujgunovski finally found the target in the 81st minute, seizing on the loose ball after McGrath had saved substitute Chris Emsovski's shot.

**Magic:** McGrath, Tasevski, Ristevski, Micevski, T.Markovski, Vasilevski, Bozinovski (Bogdanovski), Trifunov, Madarovski (Petrevski), Todorovski, Sapazovski (S.Markovski).

**Lions:** Acevski, Slaveski, Kovacic (Sterjovski), Lisolaski, Filipovski, Ognenovski (Burlak), Kozic (Talevski), Ujgunovski, Emsovski, Stojcevski, Smirnis.

**Referee:** Andrew Stacey

**Votes:** 3- Stojcevski (PL), 2- T.Markovski (AM), 1- Filipovski (PL).

### SUNSHINE 3 PORT MELBOURNE 4

By John Rigas

A small crowd witnessed an exciting game between the top and bottom teams which produced a seven goal thriller at Chaplin Reserve.

League leader, Port Melbourne, found the net four times in the opening 30 minutes in an awesome display.

Striker Nick Tsaltas opened the scoring when he latched on to a long ball out of defence to beat goalkeeper Steve Wardle from close range in the 14th minute.

Two minutes later, Tsaltas played provider when he set up midfielder Nick Palamaras who powered his shot into the top corner.

Top goalscorer, Peter Kakos, added to his already impressive tally, scoring in the 25th minute via the penalty spot and

31st minute after he struck a sweet volley from the edge of the penalty area.

Four goals in front at half time, the Sharks were cruising to what seemed to be a big win but Sunshine's youthful charges had other ideas.

Pocket dynamo, Alfonso Opazo, was awarded a penalty after he was fouled by Sharks goalkeeper Tony Lyras. Opazo made no mistake with his spot-kick, sending Lyras the wrong way.

Defender Robert Krajacic, an unlikely source for goals, was pushed into midfield in a tactical move which paid dividends.

Krajacic found the back of the net in the 50th minute with a thunderous strike and scored again in the 90th with a close range header.

The almost heroic comeback by the Georgies was still not enough to give them a share of the points as they remain on the foot of the table.

**Georgies:** Wardle, Bot, Rozanitis (De La Plaza), Krajacic, Debono, Allain, Marinkovic (Elvin), Kanesoulis, Opazo, Magnacca, Kathopoulis.

**Sharks:** Lyras, Vargas, Tsiakos, Fak, Sonsini, Pappas (Efsthathiou), Palamaras (Tsolakis), Heath, Tsaltas, Kakos.

**Referee:** Senko Rastocic

**Votes:** 3- Vargas (PM), 2- Krajacic (SG), 1- Opazo (SG)



## ALTONA PREVAIL IN THE WET

### ST ALBANS 1 ALTONA EAST 2

By Ivan Perkov

On a windy and rainy day — when watching television is the norm — Altona East Phoenix beat St Albans Saints 2-1.

It was a game that promised a dog-fight but delivered much less. St Albans, who were without their inspirational anchor-man, Krunoslav Razov, found the going tough against a spirited Altona side.

Indeed Altona started the livelier of the two, they dominated the opening 10 minutes and were rewarded in the 12th minute when Peter Groidis scored.

It was after some good team-work that Groidis received the ball, played a one-two, ran on to the bouncing ball and struck a sweet half-volley low, away from the hapless Marijan Vunderl.

When this goal came, the Saints realised that they had to make a game of it. Harry Karl, Ivan Razov along with Kon Sianidis probed the Phoenix defence for the equaliser.

After some end-to-end attacking by both sides, the Saints finally made one count.

Close to half time, Sianidis out-jumped his

marker to head home from a long corner, the Altona defenders could only parry his well placed header. Both sides trudged in at the break 1-1, Altona feeling unlucky, St Albans ecstatic.

The second half was similar to the first, chances were being created at both ends of the field - it was the lack of finishing or the assistants flag that prevented a high scoring game.

In the 52nd minute, Altona East scored the goal

they believed was coming. A hopeful ball toward the St Albans goal was left by one defender, missed by another, until a thankful George Angelos slid in to scrape in the winner.

The game continued with attack after attack, and it was the in the last few minutes that Karl had his headed goal disallowed for offside. Razov had swung in a deep cross, but Karl was deemed to be offside.

**Saints:** Vunderl, Raspudic, Colina, Karl, Saric (K.Basic), S.Rados, Mikulic (Klarica), Sianidis, Vojtek (Dragicevic), I.Razov, Movric.

**Phoenix:** Frangos, R.Antoniadis, Kapulica, De Amicis, Schwal, Donnelly, Dimitrelos (L.Catalano), Groidis, Bartol, Papadopoulos (Davis), Angelos (F.Catalano).

**Referee:** Carlo Graser

**Votes:** 3- Angelos (AE), 2- K.Basic (StA), 1- I.Razov (StA).



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### ROUND 15

**Green Gully Cavaliers 1 (Markovski) - South Dandenong 1 (Wright)**  
**Bulleen Inter Kings 3 (Mazzini, Della Rocca, Gnjjidic) - Westvale 0**

### ROUND 16

**South Dandenong 2 (Pelja, Wright) - Westvale 3 (Markovski, Goutzioulis 2)**  
**Green Gully Cavaliers 1 (Papadopoulos) - Fawkner Blues 1 (Psarros)**  
**St Albans Saints 1 (Sianidis) - Altona East 2 (Groidis, Angelos)**  
**Altona Magic 0 - Preston Lions 1 (Ujgunovski)**  
**Sunshine Georgies 3 (Krajacic 2, Opazo) -**  
**Port Melbourne Sharks 4 (Tsaltas, Palamaras, Kakos 2)**  
**Springvale White Eagles 0 - Bulleen Inter Kings 2 (Sherifovski, Gnjjidic)**  
*Melbourne Raiders v Bentleigh played on Monday night*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne Sharks	16	11	4	1	41	18	37
Preston Lions	16	10	2	4	34	20	32
Green Gully Cavaliers	16	8	6	2	29	17	30
Fawkner Blues	16	8	3	5	27	18	27
Bulleen Inter Kings	16	6	5	5	22	18	23
Melbourne Raiders	15	6	4	5	21	24	22
Altona Magic	16	6	3	7	21	31	21
Bentleigh Greens	15	5	5	5	27	17	20
Altona East Phoenix	16	5	4	7	17	23	19
South Dandenong	16	4	5	7	26	28	17
St Albans Saints	16	5	2	9	17	24	17
Westvale	16	3	6	7	20	35	15
Springvale White Eagles	16	3	4	9	19	29	13
Sunshine Georgies	16	3	3	10	17	36	12

### ROUND 17 FIXTURES

#### Saturday June 6

Port Melbourne Sharks v Altona Magic - kick off 3pm at Anderson Reserve  
Preston Lions v St Albans Saints - kick off 3pm at Goodyear Stadium  
Fawkner Blues v South Dandenong - kick off 3pm at Smith Reserve  
Altona East v Melbourne Raiders - kick off 3pm at Paisley Park  
Bentleigh Greens v Green Gully Cavaliers - kick off 3pm at Kingston Heath Reserve

#### Monday June 7

Westvale v Springvale White Eagles - kick off 8.15pm (venue to be announced)  
Bulleen Inter Kings v Sunshine Georgies - kick off 8.15pm at Veneto Club





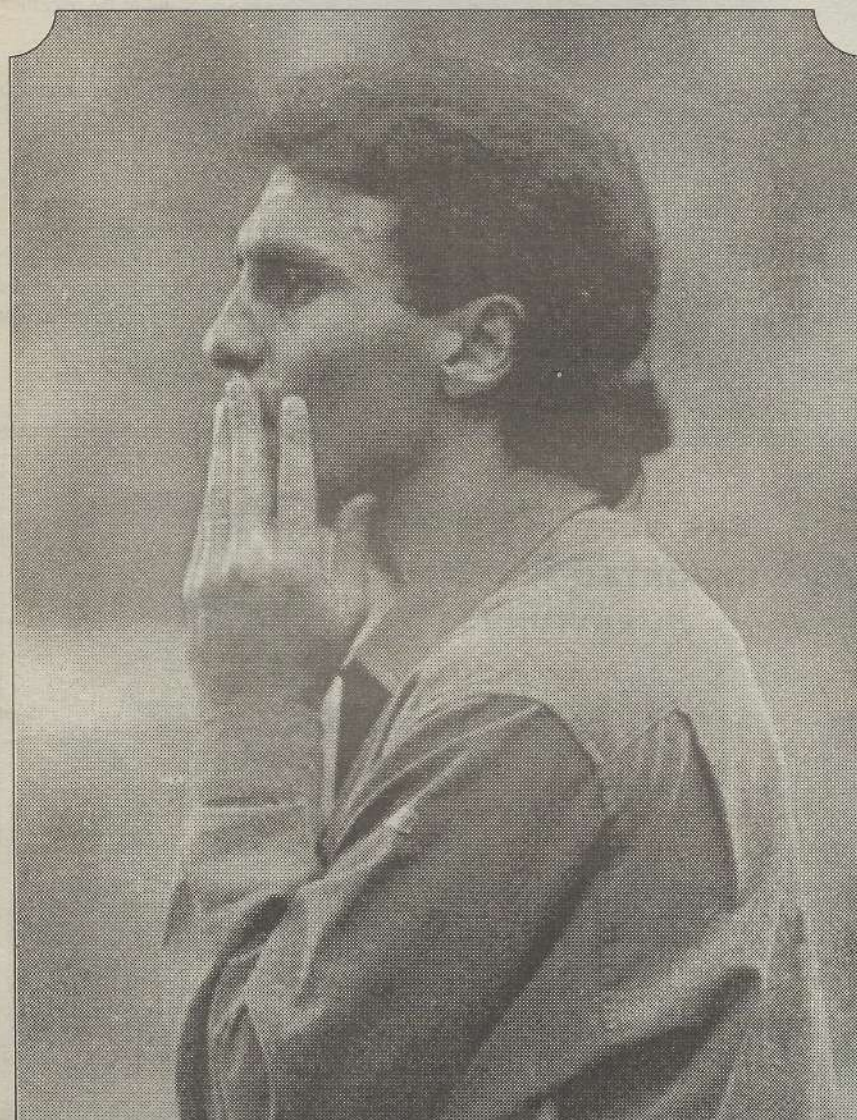
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Marcelo 'The Matador' Salas ... page 25 has details of his side Lazio's win in the final ever Euro Cup Winners' Cup Final



AC Milan's Bierhoff celebrates ... the finale to the Serie A is on page 24.



Thoughtful coach Oscar Ruggeri, the former Argentine international, currently in charge of San Lorenzo.



Newcastle coach Ruud Gullit ... all the FA Cup news is on pages 30-31.



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**A**C Milan completed its remarkable turnaround by beating Perugia 2-1 on the last day of the season to edge out Lazio by one point and claim its fifth Serie A title of the 1990s.

Milan, coming off its worst back-to-back seasons in nearly two decades, won the tightest title race since Juventus wound up one point ahead of Fiorentina in 1982.

Argentine winger Andres Guglielminpietro and German star Oliver Bierhoff scored in the first half for Milan.

Chilean striker Marcelo Salas scored two goals, his first in 10 games, as Lazio beat AC Parma 2-1, but it was not enough.

Milan was in third place, seven points behind Lazio, on April 3, but closed the season with seven straight wins. The club, which finished 10th and 11th the past two years, moved atop the standings for the first time a week ago.

It's Milan's 16th "scudetto," second only to Juventus' record 25.

"We deserved to win, there's no doubt," said Milan coach Alberto Zaccheroni. "What a great feeling. The credit really goes to the players, who were just superb."

Lazio, which claimed the Cup Winners Cup Wednesday, fell short of claiming its first league championship since 1974.

"We're disappointed today. We were in first place for a long time, but Milan had a great finish to the season," Lazio coach Sven Goran Eriksson said. "We'll be back."

Milan succeeded with a first-year coach (Zaccheroni), a new top striker (Bierhoff), and a 21-year-old rookie 'keeper, Christian Abbiati, who got a chance to play when veteran starter Sebastiano Rossi was suspended for five games after hitting an opponent.

"I didn't expect it in the first year here," said Bierhoff, tears rolling down his cheeks. "We really believed in ourselves. The important thing is to keep fighting and never give up and that's what we did."

Abbiati came up with three acrobatic saves from Perugia's Croatian striker Milan Rapajic to preserve the victory. The young 'keeper was beaten by a penalty kick by Japan's Hidetoshi Nakata.

There were also key contributions from captain Paolo Maldini and fellow veteran Alessandro Costacurta, who each have now won six league titles, including one in 1988.

Milan finishes with 70 points to 69 for Lazio, which led the standings for three months on the strength of a nine-game winning streak in mid-season. But Lazio won just four of its last seven games.

Milan and Lazio will be joined in next season's Champions Cup competition, which Milan has already won five times, by Fiorentina and Parma. Fiorentina drew 1-1 with Cagliari, to finish in third place with 56 points, one more than Parma.

Elsewhere Sunday, AS Roma routed Vicenza 4-1 to finish fifth and seal a spot in next year's UEFA Cup. At the bottom of the table, Salernitana could do no better than a 1-1 draw at Piacenza and will drop down to Serie B next season, along with Sampdoria, Vicenza and last-place Empoli.

In other games, Juventus beat Venezia 3-2, Udinese defeated Empoli 3-1 as Brazil's Marcio Amoroso hit the target twice to win the league scoring title with 22 goals. Internazionale of Milan beat Bologna 3-1, and Sampdoria edged Bari 1-0.

Playoffs will determine the last two UEFA Cup berths. Juventus will face Udinese, and Inter will play Bologna.

The start of the second half of Perugia-Milan was delayed for about 10 minutes when fans threw firecrackers and flares onto the field, and several streamers caught on fire.

The game in Rome also was held up, at Lazio's request, so the final 45 min-

# THEY DID IT!



Leonardo ... celebrates as Milan are crowned champion of Italy.

utes of the day's two key matches could be played simultaneously.

And in Rome, to prevent post-game incidents, the historic centre was closed off to private vehicles until midnight and extra police were deployed.

About 30,000 people gathered in a square in Milan to watch the team's match on a large screen TV.

At Perugia, where Milan last won in 1978, Guglielminpietro put the visitors ahead after 11 minutes, firing a shot from 15 meters out that curled inside the far post.

Midfielder Demetrio Albertini nearly doubled the lead in the 22nd, but his blast from the top of the penalty area slammed off the left post.

It was Bierhoff who came through for Milan, as he has all season, heading home a corner kick from near the penalty spot in the 31st minute to make it 2-0. The German, who came over from Udinese last summer along with Zaccheroni, notched his 20th goal of the season — his 15th off a header and ninth game-winner.

Three minutes later, Rapajic was tripped in the box by defender Luigi Sala, and Nakata cut the deficit with the 10th goal of his rookie Serie A season.

Abbiati palmed a dangerous Rapajic rocket over the crossbar in the 40th, and dove to punch away another threat from the Croatian two minutes later. The 'keeper sealed the win by stopping Rapajic with nine minutes to play.

Perugia finished 14th in the 18-team league, just one point out of the relegation zone.

In Rome, Salas broke out of his slump with goals in the 27th and 76th minutes, his first tallies since March 7.

Parma, which rested five starters, temporarily drew even at 1-1 in the 54th, with defender Paolo Vanoli's second career goal.

Lazio played the final 65 minutes with substitute 'keeper Marco Ballota between the posts, after starter Luca Marchegiani left with an injury.



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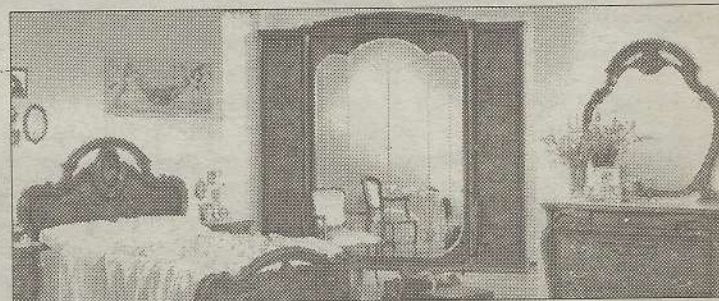
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# VICTORIAN LEAGUES



## CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

### DIVISION 1 - ROUND 9

Yarraville Glory 1 - Western Suburbs 0  
Lalor United 4 - Melbourne City 1  
North Geelong Warriors 3 - Northcote City 3  
Oakleigh 1 - Springvale City 1  
Richmond 2 - Heidelberg United 1  
Werribee City 2 - Doncaster Rovers 6  
Westgate 4 - Kingston City 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lalor United	9	7	1	1	24	8	22
Heidelberg United	9	6	2	1	23	13	20
Westgate	9	6	1	2	19	10	19
Oakleigh	9	5	2	2	13	8	17
Nth Geelong Warriors	9	3	4	2	12	10	13
Kingston City	9	4	1	4	12	17	13
Doncaster Rovers	9	3	3	3	20	13	12
Northcote City	9	3	2	4	22	20	11
Western Suburbs	9	3	2	4	12	12	11
Yarraville Glory	9	3	2	4	11	14	11
Richmond	9	2	3	4	11	19	9
Melbourne City	9	3	0	6	16	25	9
Springvale City	9	1	3	5	4	15	6
Werribee City	9	0	2	7	9	24	2

### ROUND 10 FIXTURES

Saturday May 29

Doncaster Rovers v Westgate  
Kingston City v Lalor United  
Western Suburbs v Werribee City  
Springvale City v Richmond  
Northcote City v Oakleigh  
Melbourne City v North Geelong Warriors

Monday May 31

Heidelberg United v Yarraville Glory (kick off 8.30pm)



### DIVISION 2 - ROUND 9

Frankston Pines 2 - Essendon 2  
Thomastown/Regent 4 - East Richmond 5  
Knox City 1 - Satellite City Rovers 2  
Ringwood City 2 - Croydon City Arrows 2  
Cranbourne Comets 1 - Geelong 3  
Diamond Valley United 0 - Frankston Strikers 4  
Altona City 0 - Old Scotch Waverley 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essendon	9	6	3	0	23	3	21
East Richmond	9	5	2	2	17	15	17
Frankston Pines	9	4	4	1	26	11	16
Knox City	9	5	1	3	18	9	16
Geelong	9	4	3	2	17	18	15
Altona City	9	4	2	3	8	11	14
Cranbourne Comets	9	3	4	2	17	14	13
Old Scotch Waverley	9	4	1	4	11	15	13
Thomastown/Regent	9	3	3	3	17	14	12
Ringwood City	9	2	3	4	15	23	9
Satellite City Rovers	9	2	2	5	7	21	8
Frankston Strikers	9	1	4	4	11	15	7
Croydon City Arrows	9	1	4	4	10	15	7
Diamond Valley Utd	9	0	2	7	10	23	2

### ROUND 10 FIXTURES

Saturday May 29

Frankston Strikers v Altona City  
Old Scotch Waverley v Frankston Pines  
Geelong v Diamond Valley United  
Croydon City Arrows v Cranbourne Comets  
Satellite City Rovers v Ringwood City  
East Richmond v Knox City  
Essendon v Thomastown/Regent

### DIVISION 3 - ROUND 9

Mooroolbark 0 - North Coburg United 1  
Bell Park 3 - Banyule City 0  
Broadmeadows City 0 - Laverton Park 3  
Fitzroy City 3 - Stonnington City 3



Keilor Park 0 - Moreland City 0  
South Wantirna 0 - South Springvale 3  
Williamstown 1 - Pascoe Vale 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stonnington City	9	6	2	1	24	12	20
Moreland City	9	5	2	2	18	10	17
South Wantirna	9	5	2	2	16	9	17
Fitzroy City	9	4	4	1	22	15	16
North Coburg United	9	4	3	2	16	9	15
South Springvale	9	3	5	1	11	6	14
Williamstown	9	4	2	3	20	18	14
Laverton Park	9	3	3	3	16	14	12
Pascoe Vale	9	3	2	4	13	19	11
Keilor Park	9	3	1	5	10	15	10
Bell Park	9	2	3	4	10	15	9
Mooroolbark	9	2	3	4	8	17	9
Broadmeadows City	9	1	2	6	9	21	5
Banyule City	9	0	2	7	8	21	2

### ROUND 10 FIXTURES

Saturday May 29

South Springvale v Williamstown  
Pascoe Vale v Mooroolbark  
Moreland City v South Wantirna  
Stonnington City v Keilor Park  
Laverton Park v Fitzroy City  
Banyule City v Broadmeadows City  
North Coburg United v Bell Park

### DIVISION 4 - ROUND 9

Langwarrin 6 - Chelsea 0  
Geelong Rangers 1 - Croxton Park 2  
Keysborough 1 - Sunbury United 2  
Corio 0 - Clifton Hill United 1  
Melton 0 - Lyndale United 3  
Nunawading City 0 - Seaford United 5  
Sandringham City 5 - Lalor 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	9	9	0	0	35	8	27
Sandringham City	9	6	1	2	34	17	19
Lyndale United	9	5	3	1	20	13	18
Croxton Park	9	4	4	1	21	14	16
Seaford United	9	5	1	3	18	16	16
Sunbury United	9	5	0	4	20	16	15
Lalor	9	4	2	3	19	18	14
Melton	9	3	2	4	13	16	11
Keysborough	9	3	1	5	21	15	10
Clifton Hill United	9	2	2	5	15	24	8
Corio	9	2	2	5	10	21	8
Nunawading City	9	2	1	6	9	24	7
Geelong Rangers	9	1	2	6	11	24	5
Chelsea	9	1	1	7	10	30	4

### ROUND 10 FIXTURES

Saturday May 29

Seaford United v Sandringham City  
Lalor v Langwarrin  
Lyndale United v Nunawading City  
Clifton Hill United v Melton  
Sunbury United v Corio  
Croxton Park v Keysborough  
Chelsea v Geelong Rangers

## PROVISIONAL LEAGUE

### DIVISION 1 - ROUND 7

Morwell Pegasus 1 - South Caulfield 0  
Endeavour United 2 - Sydenham Park 0  
Riversdale 4 - North Sunshine Eagles 3  
Brunswick City 0 - Mitcham United 1  
Dandenong 3 - Springvale Condors 0  
Templestowe Eagles 1 - Monbulk 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Endeavour United	7	7	0	0	21	3	21
Morwell Pegasus	7	5	1	1	17	6	16
Riversdale	7	5	1	1	18	9	16
Brunswick City	7	4	2	1	9	6	14
Sydenham Park	7	3	2	2	17	15	11
Mitcham United	7	3	0	4	11	13	9
Dandenong	7	2	1	4	11	13	7
Nth Sunshine Eagles	7	2	1	4	16	23	7
Monbulk	7	1	2	4	8	12	5
Templestowe Eagles	7	1	1	5	12	17	4
South Caulfield	7	1	1	5	12	19	4
Springvale Condors	7	1	2	4	4	20	2*

\* - Springvale Condors 3pts deducted

### ROUND 8 FIXTURES

Saturday May 29

Monbulk v North Sunshine Eagles  
Springvale Condors v Templestowe Eagles  
Mitcham United v Dandenong  
Sydenham Park v Brunswick City  
South Caulfield v Endeavour United  
Morwell Pegasus v Riversdale



### DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST -

#### ROUND 7

South Yarra 0 - Meadow Park 0  
Keon Park 3 - Elwood City 1  
University of Melbourne 1 - Ballarat 1  
Mill Park 1 - Somerton City 4  
Glenroy 1 - Hoppers Crossing 3  
Broadmeadows United 0 - Melbourne University 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hoppers Crossing	7	6	0	1	24	11	18
Glenroy	7	5	1	1	17	7	16
Ballarat	7	4	3	0	11	5	15
Uni of Melbourne	7	3	3	1	18	13	12
Somerton City	7	3	2	2	18	9	11
Elwood City	7	3	1	3	14	16	10
Melbourne University	7	2	2	3	13	17	8
Mill Park	7	2	1	4	15	18	7
Meadow Park	7	1	3	3	7	15	6
Keon Park	7	1	2	4	9	18	5
South Yarra	7	0	2	5	5	13	2
Broadmeadows United	7	1	2	4	12	21	2*

\* - Broadmeadows United 3pts deducted

### ROUND 8 FIXTURES

Saturday May 29

Hoppers Crossing v Broadmeadows United  
Melbourne University v South Yarra  
Somerton City v Glenroy  
Ballarat v Mill Park  
Elwood City v University of Melbourne  
Meadow Park v Keon Park

### DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST -

#### ROUND 7

Doveton 0 - Monash University 1  
Noble Park 0 - Waverley Wanderers 3  
Ashburton 3 - Newborough/Yallourn 3  
Dandenong Inter 3 - Dingley City 3  
Clayton 2 - Braeside United 0  
Brandon Park 2 - Heatherton United 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Waverley Wanderers	7	6	1	0	22	5	19
Clayton	7	6	0	1	15	5	18
Newborough/Yallourn	7	3	3	1	17	12	12
Doveton	7	3	2	2	8	6	11
Ashburton	7	3	1	3	22	14	10

Heatherton United	7	3	1	3	12	13	10
Brandon Park	7	3	1	3	7	8	10
Dingley City	7	3	2	2	13	14	8*
Monash University	7	2	1	4	9	21	7
Noble Park	7	2	0	5	9	16	6
Braeside United	7	1	0	6	5	14	3
Dandenong Inter	7	0	2	5	11	22	2

\* - Dingley City 3pts deducted

### ROUND 8 FIXTURES

Saturday May 29

Heatherton United v Newborough/Yallourn  
Braeside United v Brandon Park  
Dingley City v Clayton  
Waverley Wanderers v Dandenong Inter  
Monash University v Noble Park  
Doveton v Ashburton

### DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST -

#### ROUND 7

La Trobe University 4 - Brimbank City 1  
Keilor United 2 - Northern United 2  
North Glenroy 5 - Flemington Falcons 1  
Darebin United 1 - Whittlesea United 2  
Brimbank 4 - West Preston 1  
Watsonia Heights 1 - North Reservoir 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Glenroy	7	6	0	1	18	6	18
Whittlesea United	7	5	0	2	13	8	15
Keilor United	7	4	2	1	20	12	14
Darebin United	7	4	0	3	17	9	12
North Reservoir	7	3	3	1	7	8	12
Brimbank City	7	2	4	1	11	11	10
Brimbank	7	3	1	3	12	14	10
La Trobe University	7	3	0	4	14	15	9
Northern United	7	1	2	4	11	15	5
Flemington Falcons	7	1	2	4	8	14	5
Watsonia Heights	7	1	1	5	10	18	4
West Preston	7	1	1	5	11	22	4

### ROUND 8 FIXTURES

Sunday May 30

West Preston v Watsonia Heights  
North Reservoir v La Trobe University  
Whittlesea United v Brimbank  
Flemington Falcons v Darebin United  
Northern United v North Glenroy  
Brimbank City v Keilor United



### DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST -

#### ROUND 7

Noble Park United 1 - Endeavour Hills 1  
Thornbury United 2 - Ivanhoe United 1  
Old Camberwell Grammar 1 - Beaumaris 0  
Parkmore 2 - Newport United 5  
North Caulfield 2 - Rowville Eagles 2  
Collingwood City 3 - Moreland United 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moreland United	7	4	3	0	15	9	15
Ivanhoe United	7	4	1	2	12	6	13
Noble Park United	7	4	1	2	13	10	13
Endeavour Hills	7	3	2	2	18	13	11
Thornbury United	6	3	2	1	13	9	11
North Caulfield	6	3	1	2	11	9	10
Collingwood City	7	2	3	2	17	13	9
Old Camberwell Gr	7	2	3	2	7	9	9
Rowville Eagles	7	2	2	3	13	13	8
Beaumaris	7	2	2	3	9	10	8
Newport United	7	1	0	6	9	22	3
Parkmore	7	0	2	5	11	25	2

### ROUND 8 FIXTURES

Sunday May 30

Rowville Eagles v Collingwood City  
Moreland United v Noble Park United  
Newport United v North Caulfield  
Beaumaris v Parkmore  
Ivanhoe United v Old Camberwell Grammar  
Endeavour Hills v Thornbury United





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By Greg Welsh

## CASA READY FOR WORLD CUP



**D**espite being only 21 years of age, Lisa Casagrande has already achieved a lot in world football.

Since playing her first international against Japan in September 1994, the attacking midfielder has established herself as an important member of the Australian team, and in Portugal last year notched up her 50th cap.

Along the way she's earned a reputation for scoring goals when it matters most. Casagrande was the first Australian woman to score a goal against the US at a World Cup, and also

scored the winning goal against the host nation to take out the Brazil International Tournament in 1995.

Casagrande has looked in devastating form recently. She scored three hat-tricks for the Canberra Eclipse in the first eight games of the 1998-99 Ansett Summer Series, and then grabbed a goal against New Zealand to help send Australia to next month's World Cup finals. But injuries have since hampered her preparations.

"I had surgery on the interior compartments of my lower legs in early April and have just recently come back from that," she says. "I've just started training last night (Friday), my first full training session. Unfortunately for my first game I pulled a quad muscle, so that put me back."

But things like that are expected to happen when you haven't trained or played for so long.

"I would've liked to have left with a few more games under my belt, but unfortunately I've got this other injury."

But we've got four lead-up games to the World Cup, [including] one against the USA. So I'm hoping to get fully fit and spending a lot of game-time in those matches, and I have no fears that

I won't be right for the World Cup."

Australia finished a disappointing 12th at the 1995 World Cup in Sweden, owing to a luckless draw which saw them grouped with powerhouses the US and China. This time around, coach Greg Brown will be relying on players of Casagrande's maturity at international level to help the team come through the pressure-cooker atmosphere.

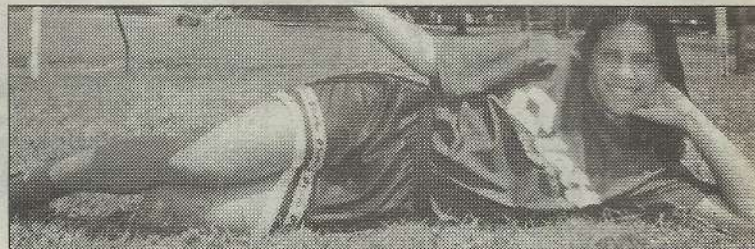
"I think the experience I've gained over the years is priceless in many ways," Casagrande says.

"Going into the next World Cup I know what to expect. I've played against a lot of the world-class players around the world before, so I'm not as daunted as say maybe I was at the (1995) World Cup."

This time she'll also be able to enjoy the tournament a lot more. "I'll be a lot more relaxed and really looking forward to it and being able to concentrate on the game more so than worrying too much of the importance of the game," she says.

This year's World Cup in the US promises unprecedented media attention for women's soccer, and based on ticket sales so far, the games should attract bumper crowds.

It's a prospect that obviously excites Casagrande, who says, "I think it's not only the biggest thing for women's soccer, it's the biggest thing for



women's sport in the world."

Brown announced the Australian squad last week, and said his aim was to reach the last eight, a goal that Casagrande says is definitely achievable.

"I think we've got the squad to go, without a doubt, into the top eight," she says, and adds that she has personal hopes of going one step further into the final four.

"Our first hurdle is to make sure that we do get through by beating Ghana and Sweden," Casagrande says. "We don't want to come down to the situation where we have to beat China."

"Ghana is not going to be an easy competitor, they've recently played China themselves and gone down 2-1 and been very competitive, so they're going to be a hard opponent, as will Sweden."

The Matildas will be looking to consolidate on a host of impressive victories in the past year. They had morale-boosting wins over China, Italy and Canada before accounting for the Oceania nations in the qualifying stages of the World Cup.

Casagrande attributes much of this success to the increased funding women's soccer has recently received in Australia, with the national squad all receiving scholarships at the AIS in

Canberra.

"I think the whole setup is a lot more professional," she says. "You're playing and training with your team members all the time so therefore you get to know your team-members — what the strengths and weaknesses are in their game."

While she's concentrating on the World Cup at the moment, Casagrande looks forward to a busy schedule over the next few years.

"The Olympics, I suppose, is the main reason why we're at the Australian Institute of Sport, that is our main goal, but at the moment it's also very important and critical that we do well at the World Cup."

"After the Olympics I'd like to head overseas and play abroad for a little while, [although] it looks like soccer is going to be in the Commonwealth Games as well, so you're looking at 2002 Commonwealth Games, 2003 World Cup and then 2004 Olympics. So I'll take it step by step."

With her scintillating talent and proven goal-scoring ability, Lisa Casagrande is helping to turn the small steps into giant leaps for women's soccer in Australia, and given her tender age, she promises to do so for many years to come.

**C**anberra Deakin continued their climb up the ACT Premier League table with a 6-2 drubbing of Queanbeyan City at Deakin Oval on Sunday.

Aside from moving Deakin up into sixth position on the ladder, the win was especially important coming so soon after the mid-week sacking of coach Ian Shaw.

Deakin's decision to dismiss Shaw surprised many in the ACT soccer fraternity, particularly after his young side had managed to make the final of the Federation Cup last weekend.

However, the new coaching partnership of Bernie Lustica and Zoran Glavinic drew a comfortable victory from their charges, albeit against the competition whipping-boys.

Queanbeyan City are still in the doldrums, a cause not helped by the recent 2-year ban placed on president Peter Gjorgievski. Soccer Canberra imposed the ban after Queanbeyan fielded an ineligible player under a false name in an under-23s game a few weeks ago.

The club has since undergone a complete restructuring at committee level, with new president Ilija Tomeski hoping to turn around City's fortunes.

However that appears a tall order based on Sunday's performance, with Cosmos recruit Danny Burt once again the only Queanbeyan player to shine.

Deakin wasted no time in taking the game to their opponents, and after completely dominating the first half-an-hour, they found themselves 4-0 ahead.

Paul Ivanic started the flood in the 5th minute after deft passing by David Milin and striker Ben Deighan set him up in front of goal.

Three goals in ten minutes effectively broke Queanbeyan's back. Deighan's 16th minute free-kick proved too hot for Vidovic in the City goal, and Daniel Jukic gratefully pounced upon the rebound.

Zoran Talevski brought up Deakin's third just four minutes later. After receiving a pass from midfielder Gaby Exposito, the striker angled into the box, and despite ending up on the deck, managed to rake the ball into the Queanbeyan net.

The fourth Deakin goal seemed to sum up City's

afternoon so far, as Anthony Rakic's inswinging corner deflected off Burt and into his own goal.

But two goals by the big Queanbeyan sweeper briefly dragged his side, kicking and screaming, back into the match before Milin and substitute Anthony Barac once more restored the four-goal margin.

Lustica was pleased with his team's effort to stay motivated throughout the game. "When you get in front of your very hard to keep that momentum going," he said. "They did that. They showed me today that it doesn't matter who coaches, they're willing to play for the club, and that's the way it should be."

In other games, Belconnen United needed an injury-time goal from Ray Junna to snare a 1-0 win over Canberra Olympic and maintain a one-point lead at the top of the table.

Junna had earlier kept Olympic scoreless with a goal-line clearance from Danny Raad's shot, and stepped up to nod home the winner after Scott Manson's corner deflected off the crossbar.

A first-half hat-trick to Monaro captain Danny Macor proved the difference as his team beat the University of Canberra 5-2 at Riverside Stadium.

Macor, who has collected eight goals from six games this season, proved too hot for the students' defence, as Monaro maintained the pressure on league leaders Belconnen Jimmy Baxter and Danny Serena scored Monaro's other goals, while Dominic Bartone notched a second-half double for University.

### ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

#### Division 1

Capital City Suns	2	Weston Crk Royals	4
Gungahlin Juventus	2	Burns Club	1
Belconnen United	1	Canberra Olympic	0
Monaro	5	Uni of Canberra	2
Canberra Deakin	6	Queanbeyan City	2

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belconnen United	6	5	1	0	0	23	4	17

Monaro	6	4	2	0	0	24	7	16
Weston Crk Royals	6	4	2	0	0	16	7	16
Capital City Suns	6	3	1	0	2	15	9	11
Gungahlin Juventus	6	3	1	0	2	13	12	11
Canberra Deakin	6	2	1	1	2	11	7	9
Canberra Olympic	6	2	0	1	3	6	7	7
Uni of Canberra	6	1	0	0	5	11	19	3
Burns Club	6	1	0	0	5	5	23	3
Queanbeyan City	6	0	0	0	6	8	37	0

**Under 23s:** Capital City Suns 1 Weston Creek Royals 2, Gungahlin Juventus 2 Burns Club 3, Belconnen United 2 Canberra Olympic 2, Monaro 2 Uni of Canberra 1, Canberra Deakin 7 Queanbeyan City Lions 0.

**Under 19s:** Capital City Suns 0 Weston Creek Royals 2, Gungahlin Juventus 5 Burns Club 0, Belconnen United 8 Canberra Olympic 0, Monaro 0 Uni of Canberra 3, Canberra Deakin 4 Queanbeyan City Lions 1.

#### DIVISION 2

ADFA	1	Sabres FC	1
ANU	0	O'Connor Knights	1
Belwest Foxes	4	Cooma	0
Tuggeranong United	1	White Eagles	1

	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
O'Connor Knights	7	7	0	0	0	16	1	21
Cooma	7	5	0	0	2	14	13	15
Tuggeranong	7	4	1	0	2	18	11	14
Belwest	6	3	1	0	2	18	12	11
ANU	6	2	1	0	3	14	11	8
White Eagles	7	1	2	0	4	7	11	7
Sabres FC	7	0	2	0	5	6	23	4
ADFA	5	0	1	0	4	4	14	2

**Reserves:** ANU 1 O'Connor Knights 3, Belwest Foxes 11 Cooma 0, Tuggeranong United 5 White Eagles 2.

**Points:** Tuggeranong 18, O'Connor Knights 18, Belwest 12, ANU 11, White Eagles 11, ADFA 6, Sabres FC 3, Cooma 0.

### ACT STATE LEAGUE

**Division 1:** Ginninderra 1 ANU 1, Burns 2 Monaro 5, Southern Spirit 2 Uni of Canberra 2, Valley Blues 1 Belconnen 5, Canberra City Bye.

**Division 2:** Burns 1 Juventus 2, Ginninderra 5 ANU 1, Tuggeranong 2 Uni of Canberra 4, Valley Blues 2 Belconnen 6, Belwest Foxes 2 Canberra City 3.

**Division 3:** ADFA 1 Fyshwick 2, Weston Creek 5 Tuggeranong 1, Uni of Canberra 7 Uni of Canberra 3, ADFA 1 ANU 5, Canberra City 0 Valley Blues 1, Harmonie 5 Belconnen 0.

**Division 4:** ADFA 1 ANU 5, Harmonie 2 Olympic 6, Canberra City 1 Valley Blues 3, Weston Creek 5 Burns 2.

**Masters:** Uni of Canberra 3 Kambah Old Boys 0, White Eagles 0 Canberra Deakin 0, St Francis 2 Kambah Rovers 0.

**Youth:** Southern Spirit 1 Belwest 3, Tuggeranong 4 Belconnen 1.

#### Premier League next Sunday, May 30th

Canberra Olympic v Capital City Suns  
O'Connor

Weston Creek Royals v Gungahlin Juventus  
Woden Park

Monaro v Canberra Deakin  
Riverside Stadium

Uni of Canberra v Belconnen United  
University of Canberra

Burns v Queanbeyan City  
Greenway

First Grade 2pm. Under 23s noon. Under 19s 10am



Compiled by

## EUROPE

Soccer Weekly

# KLINSMANN NOT RETURNING TO GERMANY

Former German captain Juergen Klinsmann, due in Australia soon for the FIFA all-stars, has slammed his home nation as a place for his family to live.

'Even if we get interesting offers from Germany we will stick to our decision,' Klinsmann told German daily newspaper Stuttgarter Zeitung in an interview.

Klinsmann, 34, who retired after last year's World Cup finals in France and now lives in the United States with his wife and son, added: 'We want our son to grow up normally and not like the son of a football player.'

The former Tottenham striker, who played 108 times for his country, was critical of German football in the interview. He added: 'In Germany what goes on around football has become more important than the game itself,' he said.

The prolific striker is hoping to hang up his boots for good when a VfB Stuttgart selection played a team of world stars in his farewell game yesterday in



Juergen Klinsmann ... will say a final farewell at Stadium Australia.

Stuttgart, followed by the Stadium Australia game against the Socceroos.

Espanyol want to sign Uruguay international striker Dario Silva, coach Miguel Angel Brindisi said.

Silva joined Espanyol on loan from Penarol in December and he is scheduled to return home at the end of the season.

"I don't want anyone new. I want him to stay," Brindisi said.

The main obstacle to Silva remaining at cash-strapped Espanyol is Penarol's asking price of 700 million pesetas.

# CROWD TROUBLE IN CROATIA



Hundreds of police battled with Croatia Zagreb fans and made several arrests outside the stadium in which the Zagreb team drew 1-1 with arch-rivals Hajduk Split midweek. Zagreb are hopeful for a Champions League spot in this, the last week of the league.

The fans, known as the *Bad Blue Boys*, (a name also adopted by their Sydney United counterparts) had boycotted the game in protest against the club's unpopular president Zlatko Canjuga.

Police said the fans hurled stones in clashes in front of the Maksimir stadium in which the premier league play-off series match was staged.

"There were fights all over, several people were injured, but we don't have the full report yet."

On the pitch Croatia took an early lead through Josip Simic, who picked up a through ball on the left and beat veteran Hajduk goalkeeper Tonci Gabric in the 26th minute.

Gabric was sent off minutes later for a tackle on Simic just outside his penalty area and Croatia seemed on course for a victory to open the way for their fourth title in as many years.

But Gabric's replacement, under-21 international Stipe Pletikosa, made at least half a dozen spectacular saves to keep his team's hopes alive.

Croatia had four clear chances in the first 10 minutes of the second half, with left winger Mario Cvitanovic hitting a post from five metres and Pletikosa saving close-range shots by Simic and captain Robert Prosinecki.

But a blunder in Croatia's defence allowed Hajduk midfielder Hrvoje Vukovic to round goalkeeper Drazen Ladic and equalise in the 56th minute.

Rijeka moved one point clear of Croatia and Hajduk at the top of the standings with a 2-1 away win over the army team, Hrvatski Dragovoljac.

Last weekend was vital for their chances as the league goes into its final week.

Croatia have an easier schedule as they meet Osijek and Varazdin, two teams out of the race for the title and also out of contention for second place which would bring a berth in next season's European Champions' League qualifying round.

# ANOTHER ITALIAN TRIUMPH: THIS TIME IT'S LAZIO

Lazio beat Mallorca 2-1 to win the 39th and last European Cup Winners' Cup Final at Villa Park midweek thanks to spectacular volley from Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved nine minutes from time.

Nedved earned himself a place in soccer folklore as the last ever scorer in the competition which is being discontinued by UEFA because of the continuing expansion of the Champions' League.

His goal at Villa Park was certainly a memorable one as he took full advantage of an indecisive header from Gustavo Siviero.

With the ball bouncing loose on the edge of the penalty area, Nedved swung his right leg to send a fierce shot out of reach of despairing Mallorca goalkeeper Carlos Roa.

It was enough to give Lazio's expensively-assembled side their first ever European trophy and keep alive their dream of a double this season by clinching the Italian title.

It also put the disappointment of last season's defeat to Inter Milan in the UEFA Cup Final behind them and gave Italy their seventh success in the competition which was also won by an Italian club, Fiorentina, in its first season, in 1960-61.

To mark the end of the competition, a parade of former winners was held on the pitch before the kick-off with all 38 previous winners represented by a player from their winning sides.

Lazio settled first on a warm spring night in England's second city and grabbed the initiative after only seven minutes when Christian Vieri rose high

above Mallorca skipper Javier Olaizola to connect with a long, deep cross supplied from just inside his own half by Giuseppe Pancaro.

For once Roa, normally a bastion in the Mallorca goal, was badly positioned and although he got a hand to Vieri's high looping effort, he could not stop it hitting the back of his net.

Vieri caused problems for the Mallorca defence all match and not even an early clash with Roa, which left him temporarily wearing a heavy bandage strapped round his head, could stop him creating turbulence in the normally stable Spanish defence.

But Mallorca, who went into this final at the end of their first ever season in Europe without having lost a match en-route to the final, struck back with the equaliser four minutes later.

After intercepting a loose Lazio ball on the half-way they counter-attacked swiftly down the left with Jovan Stankovic supplying the final cross for the perfectly-positioned Dani who powerfully side-



Put ya head down son ... Chris 'Aussie' Vieri before the game at Villa Park. He has another top game for the Romans.

footed the ball home under Luca Marchegiani's body.

The stage was set for an attacking match and the 33,000 crowd were not to be disappointed.

Play moved from end-to-end with Mallorca playing some accurate patient approach football built around the awesome physical presence of Vicente Engonga and the darting incisions of Leonardo Biagini.

Lazio relied on the usually reliable distribution of Roberto Mancini and some deft and intricate passes from Matias Almeyda and Dejan Stankovic in midfield.

Sinisa Mihajlovic, a member of the Crvena Zvezda Belgrade side that won the European Cup in 1991, was also impressive and went close with a trademark blistering freekick after 61 minutes.

Mallorca had two excellent chances to win the match before Nedved wrapped it up. Lauren saw a well-struck angled shot excellently saved by Marchegiani, and Stankovic had a 77th minute shot looking goalbound until Lazio skipper Alessandro Nesta headed it clear.

And so the final version of this Cup ended with an Italian holding the trophy. Au Revoir ECWC ...



Compiled by

## EUROPE

Soccer Weekly

# BAYERN AND BARCA END LEAGUES IN STYLE

German champions Bayern Munich condemned VfL Bochum to relegation on Saturday with four second half goals.

Mario Basler, Carsten Jancker, Mehmet Scholl and Hasan Salihamidzic all scored as Bayern triumphed 4-2 in their last game before Wednesday's European Cup final against Manchester United.

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said his team rallied well after a cautious start. "The team just didn't let go," he said.

Werder Bremen's revival continued under caretaker-coach Thomas Schaaf and they managed to avoid the drop by defeating bottom side Borussia Moenchengladbach 4-1.

Five clubs remained in the fight to avoid the last relegation place with one game left.

Eintracht Frankfurt, third from bottom, gave themselves an unexpected bonus by recovering from 2-0 down at Schalke 04 to win 3-2. They boosted their points tally to 34.

Norwegian striker Jan Age Fjortoft scored midway through the first half and Thomas Sobotzik added a second from the penalty spot after Schalke's Andreas Mueller handled.

But it was not until the 75th minute that midfielder Olaf Janssen secured three crucial points by calmly slotting home from close range after Schalke goalkeeper Oliver Reck blocked his first attempt.

"After we went two down we proved that our team is still intact. We won by showing real heart. We'll try everything in the last match," said Eintracht coach Joerg Berger.

Hansa Rostock drew 1-1 at home to Nuremberg, who could still go down despite having 37 points to their hosts 35.

VfB Stuttgart, also in danger of the drop, lost 3-1 at Hamburg SV where goalkeeper Hans-Joerg Butt scored two penalties.

SC Freiburg remained on 36 points with Stuttgart after losing 2-0 at home to Hertha Berlin.

Bundesliga top-scorer Michael Preetz took his season's total to 20 as third-placed Hertha clinched a Champions League place.

Bayer Leverkusen lost 1-0 at VfL Wolfsburg but stayed safe in second place.

In the final matches, Nuremberg host SC Freiburg, VfB Stuttgart play Werder Bremen at home and Hansa Rostock face Bochum.

Eintracht have perhaps the toughest fixture, at home to Kaiserslautern, who thumped MSV Duisburg 3-0 to stay fourth.

Girondins Bordeaux and Olympique Marseille took their French league championship race to the wire when they both won 1-0.

Bordeaux, who beat Olympique Lyon at home, will be crowned champions if they beat Paris St Germain at the Parc des Princes in Paris this Saturday.

Marseille, still one point behind after their victory over relegation threatened AJ Auxerre at the

Velodrome with an early goal from France under-21 midfielder Peter Luccin, play at French Cup winners Nantes.

Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli had at least two chances to increase Marseille's lead.

He curled a corner in the 26th minute onto the Auxerre bar and had a shot from the left three minutes after the interval superbly saved by goalkeeper Fabien Cool.

Bernard Diomede had Auxerre's best chance to equalise but Marseille keeper Stephane Porato dived to his left to save the French World Cup winger's volley from a cross by Gerald Baticle.

Ivory Coast midfielder Lassina Diabate scored Bordeaux's winner with a fine shot from outside the box that found the top corner of the net just after the half hour.

"The hardest stage was without doubt tonight against Lyon. We're getting closer and closer. We'll win in Paris because we can't let go so close to our goal," said Bordeaux president Jean-Louis Triaud, whose club last won the title in 1987.

Lyon's defeat left them in danger of losing out on France's third European Champions League berth.

At home to Strasbourg this Saturday, Lyon are now only one point ahead of Monaco, who beat Nancy 2-1 away, and Rennes, 1-0 winners at home to 10-man Metz.

Metz's Belgian veteran Danny Boffin was sent off for handling a goalbound ball in the 36th minute and Burundi striker Shabani Nonda converted the penalty.

Monaco are at home to Lorient, still not safe although they climbed out of the bottom three with a

4-1 home victory over Sochaux.

Rennes travel to Auxerre, the 1996 champions who dropped into the relegation zone and will be fighting for their first division survival this Saturday.

Auxerre's veteran coach Guy Roux said: "We fought magnificently for an hour and a half. Marseille deserve their victory, fruit of a fine goal. As far as we're concerned it's not over, we'll lift our heads."

Relegated Toulouse came from behind to beat PSG, conquerors of Marseille in their previous match, 2-1 at home.

Former giants Saint-Etienne, who had already won promotion, were crowned second division champions, while French Cup finalists Sedan also secured their promotion.

Confident Barcelona clinched their 16th Spanish league title in style as they roared to a 4-1 victory at Alaves.

A poacher's goal from Philip Cocu set the Catalans on their way six minutes before halftime, with Patrick Kluivert, Luis Figo and Luis Enrique netting in the second half to secure a successful title defence for the Catalans.

A Julio Salinas goal on 76 minutes came too late to save Alaves, who are in danger of being sucked back into relegation trouble.

Victory for Louis van Gaal's side leaves them 13 points clear of second-placed Mallorca, who have just four games left to play.

The Dutchman's side have scored 80 goals so far this term — two more than last season's tally and with three games left to play.

And Luis Figo was delighted his side had clinched the title in the same attacking style they have played all season.

"We were all waiting for this moment," the Portuguese international said after his side's lap of honour at the Alaves ground. "And to finish on such a high note is fantastic for us."

His coach pointed

to the side's teamwork as a key factor in their success.

"These players have all worked to the same objective," said van Gaal. "Our objective is always to put on a great show and win the title. We've done that today."

Barcelona made a flying start and almost went ahead on 20 seconds as Luis Figo came within a whisker of connecting with Patrick Kluivert's cross from the left.

But Alaves responded well and threatened to delay the Barcelona title procession as veteran striker Salinas twice came close to beating Ruud Hesp.

Barcelona nerves were settled on 39 minutes, though, as Cocu swept the champions into the lead.

The busy midfielder latched on to a loose ball after Kluivert's effort had been blocked and gave keeper Alfonso Tito no chance.

Five minutes into the second half Barcelona were all but home and dry. Brazilian forward Rivaldo jinked down the left and swung in a cross for Kluivert to nod home his 15th goal of the season.

Figo made it 3-0 with a sweetly struck third on 67 minutes, his right-foot shot from outside the area drifting past Tito and in at the far post.

Salinas, who struck from close range, briefly threatened to spoil the Barcelona party but a late goal from Luis Enrique re-established the three-goal cushion.

Barcelona remain well short of matching Real Madrid's record of 27 league titles but they are slowly catching up.

The Catalans have won six championships in the 1990s to Real Madrid's three, with Atletico Madrid in 1995-96 the only side to break the stranglehold of the top two this decade.



Barca players celebrate their victory in the Spanish Primera.



Bayern after clinching the Bundesliga. Is there someone out there who can explain to us the significance of the silly pants?? A bonding session perhaps?



Compiled by

UK

Soccer Weekly

# SMITH'S RAMPAGE: BIG-NAMES AXED

Derby County boss Jim Smith has finally got tough with some of his high-paid so-called stars at Pride Park, and it's Wanchope, Stimac and Sturridge that are feeling the heat.

Following a night of the long knives, Smith wants all three stars away from Pride Park as quickly as possible.

And the Bald Eagle underlined his determination to sell troublesome striker Wanchope by revealing: "We will accept almost any price for Paulo."

In a frank attack on the Costa Rican international, who claimed recently that many Derby players are dissatisfied, Smith declared: "Paulo scored ten goals this season but missed another 20."

"He has only one year remaining on his contract and won't sign another, so he's on the transfer list. I won't be messed about."

"If we had Paulo tied up for a longer term, he would be worth pounds 7million. As it is, we will settle for less — anything we can get."

"A lot of clubs who might be interested in Paulo will be put off the idea by certain parts of his personality."

"It's all a great shame, because at the age of 22, Paulo

Smith, 58, plans to revamp a Rams' squad which finished a creditable eighth in the table.

Also under the microscope are Derby's two Italians, Stefano Eranio and Francesco Baiano.

Both are 31, with just one year remaining on their present contracts, and like Stimac each missed half Derby's matches.

Eranio, the club's top earner on around pounds 20,000 a week after arriving on a free transfer from AC Milan, said: "I would like to stay here for two more seasons."

"Derby are making progress all the time, and for me, the English fans are the best in the world."

"The manager has given no response yet to my suggestion of staying a little longer, but I am quite relaxed about the situation."

Axing Eranio and Baiano as well as Wanchope, Sturridge and Stimac would slash an estimated pounds 3.2million from Derby's wage bill.

"Keeping salaries under control is the big thing these days," admitted Smith.

"Actual transfer fees are less of a problem, although I

# THE FUTURE: A BIG THREE AND THE REST?

From Graham Cooke in Exeter

The critics are calling it the best FA Premiership soccer season yet — a triumph for the English game and a vindication of the reforms which took place in the domestic competition at the beginning of the decade.

Football in this country is now fast, skilful, brimming with characters and attracting converts on a daily basis.

Not since the years following England's World Cup win in the 1960s has the game been so fashionable, so universally admired. We are, say some of the more hysterical writers, on the brink of a 'Soccer Century'.

But virtually lost amid the celebrations, the acres of print and hours of broadcast time devoted to Manchester United's conquest of Arsenal, a note of caution.

It came from West Ham manager Harry Redknapp who might have been expected to be grabbing his share of the euphoria after steering his team to fifth place — its second highest in history — and winning the FA Youth Cup.

Asked if he could continue this progress (West Ham finished eighth in 1997-98 after being relegation candidates the year before) Redknapp replied: "Certainly, if someone gives me £10 million (about \$25 million) to spend."

"Unfortunately that isn't going to happen," he continued. "So I don't see us breaking into the top three."

"Quite honestly, if you were to ask me who will finish first, second and third next year, I'd say Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea. They're playing in a different league."

For the manager of one of the country's leading teams to concede next year's title months before the first ball is kicked seems incredible at first sight, but a closer look at the mechanics of the competition adds weight to Redknapp's opinion.

In the seven years the Premiership has been contested in its present form, Manchester United has won five times and Arsenal once. The aberration was Blackburn Rovers which tried to buy itself equality with the big clubs and after its single success in 1995 fell away so badly it has now been relegated.

The dynamics of football at the highest level dictates that premierships are won, and will continue to be won, by the clubs with the biggest bank balances, and it is here that Manchester United reigns supreme.

There are some close enough to challenge: Arsenal of course, increasingly Chelsea. Then Liverpool and in the longer term Everton, Tottenham, Leeds and maybe Newcastle.

The remainder will have some years which are bet-

ter than others, but in the foreseeable future are there to make up the numbers.

So when United suffered a 'failure' in 1997-98 by finishing only second in the competition, it splashed out \$50 million on Jaap Stam and Dwight York, turning minor deficiencies into significant strengths. With earning power of that magnitude, manager Alex Ferguson's job is made easy.

Arsenal is packed with expensive foreigners, as is Chelsea; Liverpool and Leeds maintain a tradition of raising home grown talent, but sprinkle that liberally with purchases. Even West Ham opens the cheque book regularly, if on a smaller scale.

Redknapp is not being defeatist, only realistic. The excitement, skills and drama of a Premiership contest between United, Arsenal and Chelsea has been bought at a cost.

The romance has been leeched out of the game at the top level, leaving an imposing but sterile edifice. For all but the supporters of a handful of clubs, championship glory is contemplated only by dreamers and fools.

The gradient which leads into the Premiership itself is not yet too steep for the more determined among the middling. Witness Barnsley a couple of seasons back and Bradford this time.

But Barnsley is now back where it began and Bradford will almost certainly start at odds-on for bottom place at the end of the new season.

The three divisions of the Football League are a seething cauldron of sweat, tears, joy and misery, where even the briefest fling at Old Trafford, Highbury, or Anfield seems remote for the vast majority.

The name of this game is survival, thus Carlisle fans celebrated into the night after a stoppage-time goal scored, by of all people, their goalkeeper, saved the club from bottom place in the Third Division and exile from the competition altogether.

On the day United clinched the title, Tiverton Town retained the FA Vase — a national competition restricted to small centres of population — in front of 9,000 supporters at Wembley Stadium.

Less than two decades previously the Devon club had played in a local public park competition just one grade higher than social football. Next season it will move into the Southern League, within striking range of the Football League to which Carlisle clung so precariously.

At this level it is still possible to play football with stars in your eyes, even if dreams no longer have a place in the Premiership palaces of the rich and the powerful.



The image of Derby County's manager, Jim Smith, has been introduced to a new generation of football fans thanks to the Football League's new website.

Smith's Derby County side has been a success story since he took over in 1995. The club has won the FA Cup and the Football League Trophy, and finished eighth in the Premiership last season.

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# The life and times of CITIZEN SMITH

The cover of Derby County's excellent magazine, *Rampage*. 'Citizen Smith' is now wielding the axe with some of his high-paid stars at Pride Park.

could have really hit the big time with us.

"But after scoring 17 times the previous season, Paulo has been getting the wrong advice from somewhere and it has turned his head."

"The poor lad is too far down the wrong road now, and I don't suppose he would know how to turn back," added Smith.

Smith will take 2million apiece for Wanchope, who cost pounds 800,000, and fellow striker Sturridge.

"It's the same every summer with Dean. He feels unhappy. Well, this is his big chance to get away," snapped the Derby manager.

"As for Igor, bought for pounds 1.5 million, we haven't been receiving value for money from him when you consider wages as well. During three years in the Premiership, Igor has played only fifty per cent of our games due to one injury after another."

"That is simply not enough, and when I broke the news to Igor, he was extremely upset. Now he won't speak to me."

don't suggest we can go out and spend six, seven or eight million on a single signing. But I need to shake up my squad, because we have to score more goals. But for wasted chances, we could easily have ended up in fifth place."

Smith began his overhaul week with the 3million pound capture of Crewe's England Under-21 midfielder Seth Johnson, beating off competition from Liverpool.

Before buying Johnson, Smith was a mere pounds 800,000 in the red on all deals since taking over at First Division strugglers Derby in 1995.

Scotland have received a boost on the eve of their next round of Euro 2000 qualifiers. FIFA has placed them at their highest ever ranking: 21.

Craig Brown's boys jumped seven places on the back of a 1-0 victory against European champions Germany.

The pride of the Tartan Army play their next 2000 qualifiers against the Faroe Islands and the Czech Republic next month.

# BALLY'S POT OF GOLD



Former England international, Alan Ball has been handed a transfer budget of pounds 10million by Portsmouth's new owner Milan Mandaric.

Mandaric, a Miami-based tycoon, has promised wholesale changes at the club after telling manager Ball his job is safe.

Ball (left) plans to make former Fratton Park hero Guy Whittingham his first signing when his contract with Sheffield Wednesday runs out at in June.

Whittingham will sign for Pompey on a free transfer and has already been offered a two-year contract.

He could be joined by Jamaican international Paul Hall, who has been transfer-listed by Coventry, and Spurs winger Andy Sinton.

Any Aussies on the shortlist?



# UK WITH CRAZY CRAIG WILSON



**R**ecently we've noticed Kevin Stapleton sitting alone in the canteen at lunchtime. His brow is furrowed, and his face deep in a very thick book. We called him into the office and asked what was going on.

"Now that the season is drawing to a close, I need something to keep me occupied. I've been doing a TAFE course in Philosophy" he said. "I've been asked to ponder the imponderable, and it's almost as difficult for me as it is for Darren

Anderton to play a full season without getting injured.

"Let me give you an example" he continued. "Why do Manchester United fans leave the ground before the end of a match when the referee always keeps playing until they score?"

"And why do injury-prone players always recover their fitness

and form when your club transfers them to another team?"

"Why are the opposition always bigger than our team? And why do they always score in the last minute when we're hanging onto a one goal lead?"

"And why does your least favourite player score or have a great game when you're hanging onto a one goal lead?"

Imponderables indeed. No wonder he looks confused.

**H**as anyone noticed that Alex Ferguson (below right) has recently been subtitled on Australian telly?

It's the first time a British football manager has ever talked sense. It seems coaches have developed a habit of putting their foot in their mouths:

"The chairman at Aston Villa said he was right behind me, so I told him I wanted him in front of me where I could see him"

Tommy Docherty



Michalis Vlachos ... Pompey lad.

"With Scott Nisbett every pass is an adventure"

Walter Smith

"Support means getting behind the team through thick and thin. Newcastle fans have, in the last few years, been through thin and thin"

Kevin Keegan (left)

"I must admit, when I came to Southend I thought we were certain to finish bottom. Now I am very optimistic and I think we will finish second from bottom"

Barry Fry

Egypt climbed Pompey's Pillar and they passed into Navy folklore as "Pompey's Boys".

**W**hen the dust settles from the end-of-season Premiership scrap between Manchester United and Arsenal, it will generally be accepted that the best team won.

In the meantime Arsenal fans are getting shirty over perceived bias by the boys in black.

Several weeks ago we reported that Ray Parlour was one of the most fouled players in the Premiership, and Overmars one of the cleanest.

Latest figures from the statisticians indicate that the Gunners might be getting the sharp end of the whistle.

Arsenal picked up 64 bookings and seven sendings-off this season, while United only received 58 bookings with a further three reds.

Furthermore, of the league's dirtiest players, there are no Man



**A**n excellent new book at last sheds some light on the question of why are Portsmouth nicknamed "Pompey"?

Portsmouth's fore-runners were called Royal Artillery FC, the subject of a new book by Kevin Smith. In "Glory Gunners", he suggests several possibilities. One possible explanation, he says, is that during the Victorian era, soldiers paraded through the streets of the town on Her Majesty's birthday.

Royal Artillery were ordered to line the route one year instead of marching. They protested that the job was not one for a senior regiment in the British Army, being suited in the Bastille Day parade in Paris to the fire-brigade.

"The next time the RA team took the field it was to the teasing cry of "Here come the Pompers", after the French name for firemen. The name quickly became adapted to Pompey and was acquired by the current Portsmouth FC after RA's demise."

Smith admits however that there may be other explanations. An 80 gun French warship Le Pompee, sat guard over Portsmouth Harbour having been captured in 1793, and in 1781 a group of matelotes on leave in

U players in the top 20 (there are two Gunners — Petit and Keown).

On the other hand an internet statistic reveals a slightly different way of looking at it. At the half-way point of the season, Manchester United had committed 10% more fouls than Arsenal, but referees were 5% more likely to brandish the book at an Arsenal player than a Manchester United one!

Email Crazy Craig at [magicsponge@hotmail.com](mailto:magicsponge@hotmail.com)



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UK

Soccer Weekly

# FILAN FORCES FLOWERS TO WILT

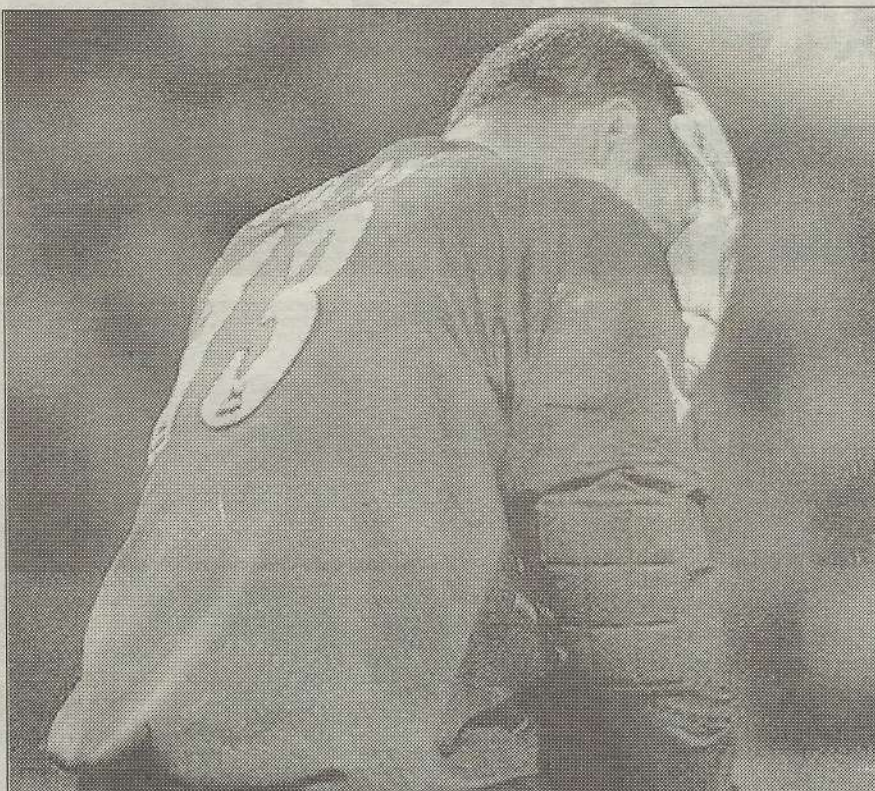
Tim Flowers' season has been so ruined by the great form of Aussie John Filan that he is adamant he has to go to resurrect his career at England and club level.

The former England goalkeeper, linked with Liverpool, Aston Villa and Leicester, submitted a transfer request earlier this season after losing his place to John Filan.

That was rejected by the Lancashire club. But Flowers has not changed his mind and he now seems certain to join the exodus along with striker Sutton and Swiss defender Stephane Henchoz.

Flowers, who has 11 caps, fears his England career will be wrecked unless he finds another Premiership club. The 32-year-old is even willing to write off 250,000 in loyalty bonuses to leave.

However, Ashley Ward, Lee Carsley and Keith Gillespie have pledged their future to the club in their bid to bounce straight out of the First Division. Kidd is also planning talks with other first-team stars such as Matt Jansen, Jason McAteer, Kevin Gallacher and Garry Flitcroft.



Aussie John Filan after Blackburn were relegated. The ex-Wollongong player has kept England international Tim Flowers out of the side.

Newcastle do not want Ruud Gullit to leave, and are putting their money where there mouth is with a massive offer designed to tie him to the club long-term.

In an unprecedented move, directors offered Gullit a new, improved long-term deal before the FA Cup final to warn off crisis club Sampdoria, who have targeted their former player to spearhead their assault back into the Italian big time.

Preliminary discussions opened at the start of Cup Final week between chairman Freddie Shepherd and Gullit.

Details of the length and terms of the contract have not been thrashed out, but Gullit is believed to have been tempted by a three-year contract worth pounds 5million — on a par with

Ferguson at Manchester United.

Gullit currently earns 800,000 a year, although he is locked into big bonuses together with the players.

Top earners Duncan Ferguson and Alan Shearer are on 100,000 each for winning the FA Cup, with a deal linking a trophy to a percentage of salary.

And Gullit's new package is even more heavily linked to bonuses, with the manager opting for a payments-by-performance deal.

Newcastle officials are hoping it will be enough of an incentive to fight off a bid by fallen Serie A giants Sampdoria, who have pencilled in Gullit at the top of their wanted list.

The Italians are aware that Gullit's girlfriend Estelle has refused to move to Tyneside and that the Newcastle boss continues to commute between Newcastle and his home in Amsterdam.

It is believed they will make their move for him once the FA Cup final drama is out of the way, which has sparked prompt action from worried Newcastle.

## GOONER 'ROCK STARS' MAKE A BLAST IN ASIA

Despite not winning the league, Arsenal still have adoring fans, as evidenced by their arrival in Thailand.

They were mobbed by more than 2,000 screaming Thais, mainly teenage girls, after flying in from Malaysia.

The crowd blocked roads around the airport and the Arsenal coach was delayed for 15 minutes as the players fought their way through massed ranks of autograph-hunters and well-wishers.

The Gunners jetted off to the Far East immediately after being pipped to the Premiership title by Manchester United. They beat Malaysia 2-0 in a friendly last Wednesday night.

Keith Wiseman and Graham Kelly, the disgraced duo of soccer, suffered the ultimate snub on the weekend. Both were scratched from the list of those invited to the FA Cup final.

"Nobody has offered me a ticket so I shall sit at home with some friends and watch it on television," said Kelly, the former Football Association chief executive who has not missed the Wembley showpiece for 25 years.

He added: "It will be an emotional occasion for me watching it on TV and not being there and that will tug at me, but all good things come to an end. Nobody rang up and asked me if I would like a ticket."

Kelly and Wiseman lost their jobs at Lancaster Gate in December over the cash-for-votes scandal involving grants to the Welsh FA.

Kelly added: "I will get up early and watch all the trivialities such as what Des Lynam had for breakfast. I will try to relax and enjoy it at home."

"I've enjoyed every minute of it over the years even though not every final has been a great game of football. But you cannot beat it for the drama."

"That is not to say I wouldn't have fought long and hard to keep Glenn because I thought he had a raw deal towards the end."

Kelly also talked about England's World Cup bid, in which he was a major driving force. He believes

England have the best case for hosting the tournament in 2006 but fears the best bid may not win.

"I think England's will be the best bid when the applications are due on July 31," he said. "But so many of these issues are decided in the corridors of power."

An FA spokesperson confirmed: "Both Mr Kelly and Mr Wiseman were not invited to the FA Cup final, and sense of occasion. Next year will be the last at the old stadium so I will have to try to get myself a ticket for that one."

Kelly also revealed that he would have fought long and hard to keep Glenn Hoddle as England coach despite his controversial comments about the disabled.

If he had kept his job, it is unlikely that Kevin Keegan would now be in charge of the England team.

"Eventually we have got the right results," he said. "Kevin Keegan is there — he was never going to be a part-time coach as far as I was concerned, it was always a full-time job — and he's there for the next three years."

"I very much hope he qualifies for Euro 2000 and that he is successful both there and in the qualifying campaign for the next World Cup in Japan and South Korea."

England youngsters Kieron Dyer and Richard Wright will lead a 20million pound exodus out of Ipswich this summer.

The pounds 6m-rated midfielder Dyer and keeper Wright will both join Premiership clubs after unlucky Ipswich suffered play-off heartbreak for the third year running.

Newcastle boss Ruud Gullit will lead a scramble for Dyer's signature, while there will be no shortage of offers for Wright, who is being tipped as an England keeper of the future.

Their departures could also be followed by strikers David Johnson and James Scowcroft, along with midfield prospect Matt Holland.

Ipswich boss George Burley faces a desperate bat-

tle to keep hold of his young stars after missing out on a 10m Premiership goldmine.

Wright and Dyer are reluctant to spend another season outside the top flight and risk their international chances.

Dyer even threw his shirt and boots into the crowd after Ipswich's dramatic play-off semi-final defeat to Bolton last Wednesday night as a final farewell to the fans.

Tottenham, Leeds, Leicester and Middlesbrough have all enquired about 20-year-old Dyer, while Gullit sees him as a crucial part of his long-term plans at Newcastle.

Ipswich-born Dyer has already received a call-up to the full England squad and, despite being under contract for another three years, will be sold as soon as a big-money offer comes in.

Dyer was brought up just 200 yards from Portman Road and is a lifelong Ipswich fan. Burley is even a godfather to his step-sister.

Newcastle have already had one bid turned down for pacy Dyer, who is regarded as one of the best attacking midfielders in the country.

Manchester United have been linked with Wright, 21, who will be sold because Ipswich will not be able to afford to hang on to their young assets.

That's why Johnson, Scowcroft and Holland are also available for the right price.

Missing out on promotion will cost them an estimated 10m in lost revenue and hard-up Ipswich will have to balance the books.

Burley said: "We've got a number of quality young players and we don't want to lose them."

"We're disappointed now after missing out on the Premiership but we'll bounce back, there's no doubt



Martin Keown ... the Gooners are a big hit in Asia.

about that.

"But it's up to the players whether they want to go. If a player doesn't want to leave then he won't go."

"All of the younger players appreciate the club. They're all on long contracts. Some of the youngsters might want to go to a top Premiership club, but they've come a long way with Ipswich too."

"They have broken into two England squads while they've been with us and I'm sure they can still progress with the club."





# ENGLISH FA CUP FINAL



## GLORY GLORY MAN UNITED



### SHERINGHAM REMINDS FERGIE AS UNITED WARMS-UP FOR BAYERN

**MANCHESTER UNITED 2**  
**NEWCASTLE UNITED 0**

By Soccer Weekly & Agencies

**I**n the end Newcastle's talk of making amends for last year was swept away as Manchester United showed they truly are the side for the big occasion, easily winning the Cup against a disorganised Newcastle 2-0.

Their ninth FA Cup triumph makes them the very first English team to secure a 'treble' of Doubles — all achieved in five dream-like seasons for manager Alex Ferguson.

As Cup Finals go, this was a crackerjack start. No Duncan Ferguson versus Jaap Stam, with both stars named among the substitutes; a great effort from Newcastle's Peruvian Nolberto Solano; a booking for their German midfielder Dietmar Hamann; an injury to Manchester United skipper Roy Keane and, as a consequence, the arrival of Teddy Sheringham off the Reds' bench.

That had all occurred inside eight minutes, yet was only the tip of the iceberg as far as the real drama was concerned.

United manager Alex Ferguson has been hailed throughout this remarkable treble-chasing campaign as being rather useful at ringing the changes just when required, but even he can not take credit for

throwing on Sheringham so early.

Indeed to lose the influential Keane, whom he described as the side's 'heartbeat' last week, following a very late, aggressive lunge from Gary Speed which resulted in the Irishman falling badly, must have been quite the last thing he wanted.

Just 96 seconds later Fergie must have known someone 'up there' likes him.

Cole — partnered by Ole Gunnar Solskjaer rather than regular Dwight Yorke, who was left on the bench — did well fending off three desperate challenges to find Sheringham.

A quick pass to Scholes, and the super sub was off, unmarked, into the Newcastle box, where he collected a perfectly-weighted first-time return before slotting in a low drive under rookie keeper Steve Harper.

The Man Utd players' exuberance was matched by their fans', who, after seeing Keane exit, went crazy.

Earlier, the Geordie fans had cause for hope with a well-timed Solano shot, which had Peter Schmeichel scampering to save low to his left. After that, there was little resistance to speak of from the Black and Whites.

To underline the point, the Reds twice went close to adding a second in the 33rd and 34th minutes. Firstly, Norwegian ace Solskjaer, who must have still been in a state of shock at receiving his call into the starting line-up ahead of Trinidad and Tobago striker Yorke, the country's leading scorer on 29 goals, failed to connect properly with a near-post header from Phil Neville's centret.

And then, Cole, who has made a habit of banging them in against his old club, was sent clear by an exchange of headers between Beckham and Sheringham.

But his hooked lob over Steve Harper did not have sufficient pace to win the race to the goalline with Greek defender Nikos Dabizas.

It was not all one-way traffic, as Hamann reminded the 79,000-odd crowd, and the Great Dane Schmeichel, with a strong goalbound drive which the Manchester keeper, making his penultimate appearance for the side, only just diverted from hitting the back of his net.

Yet, it was still Manchester making the majority of the running, Beckham dropping into the centre of midfield, Solskjaer operating mainly on the right flank and Sheringham roaming down the middle.

The ex-Tottenham man nearly grabbed his second towards the end of the half when Beckham's cross found him unmarked in the six yard area. His powerful header, though, flew inches wide.

At the break, Newcastle boss Ruud Gullit, the man with a most-unenviable record against Fergie's team, clearly saw the game was running away from his grasp fast. Hence, the desperate throw of the die in bringing on the towering Ferguson — even, though, the Scottish striker was nowhere near fully fit.

The switch with the injured Hamman



Paul Scholes ... always seems to score on the big occasion for the Red Devils.

almost proved worthwhile in the 48th minute when, from Speed's brave header, Schmeichel needed considerably more courage to block at the boots of the 6ft 4in ex-Everton hitman.

However, that opportunity gone, Newcastle then suffered a killer blow to hopes of ending a three-match losing streak at the Twin Towers, stretching back to 1974 (the last time they actually won the FA Cup, their sixth success in all, was in 1955).

In contrast, United have lifted the trophy three times in this decade alone, and eight minutes into the second period they took a huge step to landing a fourth.

Once more, Sheringham, abused by supporters up and down the land last season — including many from Old Trafford, who even went as far as naming him among their all-time worst United eleven — was at the centre of the havoc created in the Geordies' area.

His quick thinking released the ever-dangerous Scholes who, at the same end he scored a hat-trick for England last month, calmly drove home Manchester's second of the afternoon.

The contest was not quite dead and buried, Georgian international Temuri Ketsbaia emphasising the fact with an effort that deserved better than to thump against the foot of the stranded Schmeichel's post.

Shades of 12 months ago here, when Newcastle skipper Alan Shearer, very quiet this time around under the attentions of Ronny Johnsen (and the centre

**Manchester United:** Schmeichel, G. Neville, Johnsen, P. Neville, May, Beckham, Scholes (Stam 78), Keane (Sheringham 9), Giggs, Cole (Yorke 60), Solskjaer. Subs Not Used: Blomqvist, Van Der Gouw. Goals: Sheringham 11, Scholes 53.

**Newcastle United:** Harper, Griffin, Charvet, Dabizas, Domi, Lee, Hamann (Ferguson 46), Speed, Solano (Maric 68), Ketsbaia (Glass 79), Shearer. Subs Not Used: Barton, Given.

**Booked:** Hamann.

**Attendance:** 79,101

**Referee:** P. Jones (Loughborough).

of defence was supposed to be their achilles heel), hit an upright during Newcastle's 2-0 defeat by Double-winners Arsenal. There were now only 25 minutes standing between them and further misery at the mecca of football.

Yorke and Stam were given a run out on the Wembley turf, so too Silvio Maric, becoming the first Croat to appear in the end-of-season showpiece.

Maric, the attacking winger signed from Croatia Zagreb three months ago, could have imprinted his name forever in the record books 15 minutes from time — and dragged Gullit's fast-fading Newcastle right back into contention.

On the edge of the area, he suddenly found himself with a perfectly clear view of Schmeichel's goal following a missed header by Dutchman Stam. How an earth he did not, at the very least, hit his target — he was no more than 12 yards out — is anybody's guess. But miss he did, his side-footed shot drifting harmlessly away.

Moments earlier, Sheringham had gone even closer, floating a delicate chip onto Harper's crossbar, after Yorke and Beckham combined to create the opportunity.

In truth, had Maric scored, it would still probably have been too little too late — even if there was time for the same player to again fire wide, albeit from a far tougher angle.

In summary, once Sheringham scored early, there was only one side in it. Newcastle may yet become a force under Gullit, but their defensive frailties have to be fixed, and quick.

As for the Red Devils, like Bayern, they are on a roll. They are confident, strong mentally and together spiritually. Even the incident with Roy Keane midweek did not phase them. The ultimate test now awaits them in Barcelona.



What a week for Roy Keane. A Premiership medal, jail, Wembley and an injury.



Compiled by

Soccer Weekly

UK

League Highlights

# FIRST DIV PLAY-OFFS REACH THEIR FINALE: CAN WATFORD DO IT?

He may have been a disaster as England coach, but Graham Taylor is on the precipice of a return to the big time. His team, Watford, got through their playoff 7-6 on penalties after it was 1-1 midweek.

The former England manager, who only led his side out of the Second Division last season, is now just 90 minutes from a sensational return to the top flight, with only Bolton Wanderers standing in the way.

And on a night of high drama at St Andrews where the North London club won a penalty shoot-out 7-6, Taylor spoke of his pride for the players who have played out of their skins and taken the Hornets to the brink.

Taylor said: "My players were tremendous. This is certainly not the best group of players there has ever been, but in terms of work rate, they cannot be faulted. Wembley is a massive challenge for us.

"I've been through penalty situations before and all you can really do is support the players who are involved because they are the one's at the sharp end of real pressure.

"In actual fact, we really didn't create too much tonight, and I was disappointed with the quality of our crossing. But this is certainly not a night to start getting disappointed.

"We are paying Bolton in the final, we have beaten them twice but it

will be a challenge because they are expecting to go straight back up to the Premiership. But we have a good spirit at Watford and it will be a good test."

Trevor Francis added: "I'd like to congratulate my team on the effort they put in because they were absolutely fantastic. If ever there was a night when everything that could possibly go against us did go against us then this was it.

"Yet in spite of adversity we kept fighting back, right up until the 120th minute. And if there's any justice in football then we should have gone through tonight because we were the better team and we created the better chances.

"I'm desperately disappointed for the supporters, but most of all I'm desperately disappointed for the lads in the dressing room which is full of tears because they don't know what's happened. They've worked and worked for me all season but tonight it just didn't happen."

It must be hard being a Man City fan right now, but at least they are in with a chance of promotion after the latest playoffs.

Such has been the outpouring of relief after City reached the Division Two play-off final against Gillingham that the celebration of Manchester United's latest Premiership triumph was positively pedestrian compared to the pitch invasion at Maine Road.

United fans, of course, are well used to success. Lots of it. City, however, have had only tears for souvenirs as the club who once considered themselves bigger than their nearest neighbours —

and often outspent them —tumbled into what was the old Third Division.

Indeed, such were the scenes of joy after the defeat of Wigan (see story below) that, if you shut your eyes for a second, you could have thought City themselves might have been celebrating the ultimate club triumph.

Yet as the City support prepare for Wembley it would be churlish to deny them their tiny moment of glory, even though Royle stresses: "When you think about it all we've done is reach a Second Division play-off final and nothing more.

"I want to give the supporters something to really cheer about and I can't imagine what it will be like if we actually win something. After what has gone on at this club we don't deserve the kind of frenzy and adulation we're now getting."

Relegation to Division Two last season should have been too much to bear for most of the City faithful.

But the fans refused to turn their backs on the club. A total of 15,000 bought season tickets.

Maine Road boasts a 29,000 average gate and, just for a moment on Wednesday night after Shaun Goater had scored the goal which beat

Wigan, the City fans forgot that a Blue Moon has hung over their ground for so long.

At least 50,000 supporters, perhaps more if chairman David Bernstein and his board can persuade the Football League to increase their ticket allocation, will flood into London on May 30 — the largest support for any one club at Wembley since the war.

Bernstein stressed: "The supporters have been marvellous. They've waited so long for something like this. Now we have to go to Wembley and win because it's incredibly important that we get back into the First Division."



Peter Reid will make Nigeria midfielder Sunday Oliseh his first signing since taking ambitious Sunderland into the FA Carling Premiership.

Reid will smash the club's record transfer pay-out —the £2.5million he paid for Lee Clark in June 1997 — by investing £4m on the Ajax star who has 24 caps and was one of the hits of Nigeria's World Cup

campaign last summer.

Oliseh, 24, is famed for his powerful free-kicks which have earned him the nickname 'The Gun' in Dutch football.

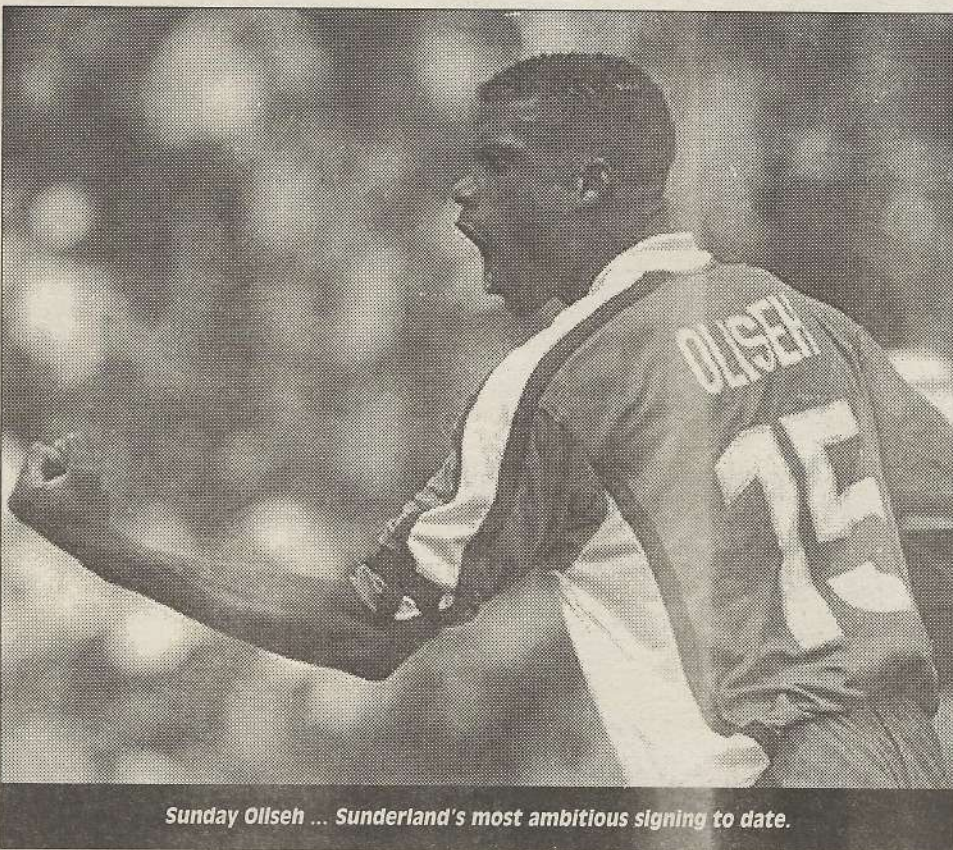
"My future is in England," Oliseh said recently.

"I have played in some wonderful teams but now I am excited by the prospect of playing in the Premiership.

"I believe it is right for me to play in England at this stage.

"There is a lot of exciting football being produced in the Premiership by some of the best players in Europe and I want to be part of it."

And Sunday, that's exactly what Sunderland want to do, be a part of the Premiership ... and stay there this time.



Sunday Oliseh ... Sunderland's most ambitious signing to date.

## WIGAN SACK MANAGER, DALGLISH TO NORWICH

Norwich have sealed the signature of Paul Dalglish from Newcastle for £300,000. The Scottish under-21 international, spent the last month of the season on loan at Carrow Road and put an end to three weeks of speculation by signing.

Dalglish said: "I just want to play football every week and unfortunately that opportunity was taken away from me at Newcastle. I'm grateful that Norwich have given me the opportunity to prove myself again.

It's a friendly club and I've been made to feel very welcome. I've no regrets about coming here whatsoever."

The Canaries have also finalised the signing of French winger Cedric Ansellin from

Bordeaux for £250,000 following a similar loan deal.

Manager Bruce Rioch said: "Paul is a young player with a lot of talent and a tremendous amount of potential which we would like to help him realise. Hopefully he can take his career a big step forward with Norwich."

Wigan have sacked manager Ray Mathias just two days after the 1-0 defeat in the Second Division play-off semi-final at Maine Road.

Owner Dave Whelan has ploughed millions into the side, and expected to make the play-offs at the very least.

Mathias took over without a contract from

John Deehan earlier this season, and managed to lead the Latics to victory against Millwall in the Auto Windscreens Shield and to sixth place in the table but the 2-1 aggregate defeat to Manchester City cost him his job.

Whelan said: "It was a difficult decision but all four members of the board are unanimous that it is in the club's interest to make a change."

Mathias will be replaced by caretaker boss John Benson, the Latics' general manager, until a permanent replacement is found.

The dismissed Merseysider was in his second management stint at the club, his first one being in 1989.



# The New Fashion We Football



MATILDAS' CAPTAIN JULIE MURRAY-  
HEADED FOR WORLD CUP GLORY?  
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THE MATILDAS